



Daily Report

East Asia

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19 January 1994

Daily Report

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FBIS-EAS-94-012

CONTENTS

19 January 1994

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

| | |
|--|---|
| Minister Fujii 'Hopes To Meet' With Bentsen [KYODO] | 1 |
| U.S. Numerical Target Idea Said 'Bid Rigging' [KYODO] | 1 |
| U.S. Request Regarding Semiconductors 'Rejected' [KYODO] | 1 |
| Medical Talks With U.S. End 'Without Progress' [KYODO] | 2 |
| Plan To Ask Australia to G-7 Summit Dropped [KYODO] | 2 |
| Dispatch of SDF to Former Yugoslavia Suggested [KYODO] | 3 |
| Official Says No Decision Yet [KYODO] | 3 |
| Tokyo on Concerns Over Military Intentions [KYODO] | 4 |
| Ex-Im Bank Plans To Maintain Support to Russia [KYODO] | 4 |
| India Urged To Join NPT, Accept Inspections [KYODO] | 4 |
| Vietnamese Trade Exposition Opens in Tokyo [KYODO] | 5 |
| Resumption of Burma National Convention Greeted [KYODO] | 5 |
| Investment in Europe Shrinks 24.7 Percent [KYODO] | 5 |
| Reportage on Political Reform Issue Continues | 6 |
| LDP's Mori, Minister Ouchi Comment [Tokyo TV] | 6 |
| Coalition Agrees To LDP Talks [KYODO] | 6 |
| Coalition, LDP Begin Talks 19 Jan [KYODO] | 7 |
| Negotiations Continue on Package [KYODO] | 8 |
| Talks Fail To Resolve Differences [KYODO] | 8 |
| Hosokawa 'Indirectly' Says Loan Used in Election [KYODO] | 9 |
| BOJ's Mieno Returns From BIS Meeting [KYODO] | 9 |
| Industry Sources: Domestic Rice Prices Rising [KYODO] | 9 |
| Nissan Motor Co. Head Rules Out Pay Cuts [KYODO] | 9 |

North Korea

| | |
|---|----|
| Daily: Nuclear Issue Caused by U.S. Policy [KCNA] | 10 |
| Kim Yong-sam's Economic 'Treachery' Denounced [Pyongyang Radio] | 10 |
| Commentary Urges Kim Yong-sam To Resign [Pyongyang Radio] | 11 |
| ROK Efforts To Fight Crime Denounced [Pyongyang Radio] | 12 |
| Paper Criticizes ROK 'Military Dictatorship' [KCNA] | 13 |
| South Korea's 'Ceaseless War Exercises' Denounced [Pyongyang Radio] | 14 |
| South's Plans To Conduct 'War Exercise' Viewed [Pyongyang Radio] | 14 |
| Alternative Exercises 'Obstacle' to N-S Ties [KCNA] | 15 |
| Document, Spectrum Analyzer Export Link Viewed [KCNA] | 16 |
| Export Case 'Sheer Fabrication' [KCNA] | 16 |
| PRC's Jiang Zemin Assures Hwang of Friendship [KCNA] | 17 |
| 'World Public' Supports Kim Il-song's Speech [KCNA] | 17 |
| Kim Il-song Receives Foreign Leader Greetings [KCNA] | 17 |
| Kim Chong-il Exchanges Cards With Foreign Leaders [KCNA] | 18 |
| Yi Chong-ok at Meeting on Korean Alphabet [KCNA] | 19 |
| Meeting of Trade Union Propaganda Functionaries [Pyongyang Radio] | 19 |
| Daily on 'Revolutionary Spirit of Mt. Paektu' [KCNA] | 20 |

South Korea

| | |
|---|----|
| Inspection 'Must' Precede DPRK-U.S. Talks [Seoul Radio] | 21 |
| IAEA-DPRK Talks Developments Reported | 21 |
| IAEA Spokesman Meyer Comments [Seoul Radio] | 21 |
| Working-Level Contact 'Stalemate' [Seoul Radio] | 21 |
| Third-Round Contacts Begin 17 Jan [Seoul Radio] | 21 |
| DPRK Conveys Position in Detail [YONHAP] | 22 |
| IAEA Official, DPRK Councilor Meet [YONHAP] | 22 |
| IAEA Presents 'Reply Document' [Seoul Radio] | 23 |
| 'Atmosphere' of Talks Analyzed [HANGUK ILBO 19 Jan] | 23 |
| Internationalization of Nuclear Pact Viewed [TONG-A ILBO 18 Jan] | 24 |
| Article Assesses Ministers' Views on N-S Issue [CHUNGANG ILBO 14 Jan] | 25 |
| DPRK Party Forms 'Operations Team' on ROK [YONHAP] | 26 |
| 'Major Change' in DPRK Firm in Macao Noted [THE KOREA HERALD 19 Jan] | 26 |
| Russian Intelligence Official on Nuclear Issue [YONHAP] | 27 |
| 'Concern' Over Russian Submarine Sale Expressed [YONHAP] | 28 |
| Analysts View Missile Capacity [YONHAP] | 28 |
| Japan's Policy Toward Pyongyang Assessed [SISA JOURNAL 20 Jan] | 28 |
| Original Peacekeeping Unit Returns From Somalia [YONHAP] | 30 |
| Group Urges Protection of Foreign Workers [YONHAP] | 31 |
| NSP Director Gives New Year Business Report [YONHAP] | 31 |
| Defense Minister's Style, Challenges Viewed [CHUGAN CHOSON 13 Jan] | 31 |
| Naktong River Pollution Becomes Political Issue [YONHAP] | 33 |

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

| | |
|---|----|
| Karen National Union Arrests Student Leaders [AFP] | 34 |
| Myo Nyunt Addresses Convention on Security [Rangoon TV] | 34 |

Laos

| | |
|--|----|
| Communications Agreement Signed With SRV [KPL] | 35 |
| Party-State Leaders, People Observe Army Day [Vientiane Radio] | 35 |
| Foreign Attaches Call on Deputy Minister [KPL] | 36 |
| WPK Sends Condolences on Death of Phoumi [Vientiane Radio] | 36 |

Thailand

| | |
|--|----|
| Market Access, Bentsen Meetings Discussed | 36 |
| Finance Minister Meets Bentsen [BANGKOK POST 19 Jan] | 36 |
| Broker, SET Chiefs on Access [BANGKOK POST 19 Jan] | 37 |
| Editorial Urges Resolve on Demands [THAI RAT 19 Jan] | 37 |
| Uthai: No Disagreement With Malaysia on EAEC [Bangkok Radio] | 38 |
| Agenda, Format for Regional Security Forum [BANGKOK POST 19 Jan] | 38 |

Vietnam

| | |
|---|----|
| Senators Inouye, Stevens Conclude Visit [Hanoi Radio] | 38 |
| Le Mai Comments on Human Rights Dialogue [VNA] | 39 |
| Dutch Transportation Minister on Joint Ventures [Hanoi International] | 39 |
| Thai Military Delegation Visits 10-14 Jan [VNA] | 40 |
| Doan Khue Greets Lao People's Army Day [Hanoi Radio] | 40 |
| Measures Urged To Stop Sale of Imitation Goods [Hanoi Radio] | 40 |
| Bui Thien Ngo Discusses Corruption, Smuggling [NHAN DAN 23 Dec] | 40 |
| Defense Economic Situation Discussed at Conference [Hanoi TV] | 42 |
| Doan Khue Attends Army Economic Conference [Hanoi Radio] | 42 |
| Initial Investment in Long Xuyen Quadrangle [VNA] | 42 |
| Doan Khue Views Armored Force Readiness [Hanoi Radio] | 42 |

Japan

Minister Fujii 'Hopes To Meet' With Bentsen

OW1901112994 Tokyo KYODO in English 1102 GMT
19 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 19 KYODO—Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii said Wednesday [19 January] he hopes to meet U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen, who is scheduled to stop over in Japan on Sunday for refueling on his way back to the United States from his tour of Asia.

Denying reports that Japan had rejected U.S. requests for the meeting, Fujii said, "We have not received such a request yet." But he said he considered the proposed meeting "positively" and he told a press conference he wanted to "take the opportunity" to meet Bentsen, indicating that Japan may propose the meeting.

Fujii declined to comment on what they might discuss, but said he is "not in the position to negotiate" for the Japan-U.S. "framework" trade talks in reference to recent U.S. demand to meet with officials who can make political decisions instead of bureaucrats.

Turning to domestic issues, Fujii indicated that the government's new economic stimulus package will be launched by month-end, but hinted that an income tax cut may not be included. The compilation of the package is progressing "substantially," and the completion will not be "so far away," he said.

Considering the tax issue, he said, "it's separate" from the package that is now being formed by the Economic Planning Agency because the decision is left to a joint economic problem forum of the government and the coalition parties. But Fujii noted that he wishes tax cuts to be included as an economic measure, saying "that's more favorable."

Given the package, his ministry will compile a third fiscal 1993 supplementary budget along with fiscal 1994 budget, he said.

U.S. Numerical Target Idea Said 'Bid Rigging'

OW1901092894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0918 GMT
19 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 19 KYODO—A government advisory panel Wednesday [19 January] blasted a U.S. policy seeking numerical trade targets as "bid rigging" between exporting and importing countries. The policy is designed to guarantee a fixed portion of trade profits by imposing import goals in "a compulsory manner," said the head of the Industrial Structure Council, an advisory body to the minister of international trade and industry.

The practice would serve nobody's interests in the long run because it would eventually erode the competitiveness of exporting countries as well, panel chairman Mitsuo Matsushita told a press conference.

The panel said, "an exporting country should not call on the government of an importing country to implement a 'numerical target-based trade policy.' Nor should the government of an importing country accede to such a request."

Voluntary plans for U.S.-made auto parts purchased by Japanese car makers and U.S. expectations in its chip trade accord with Tokyo were "abused" in the past and treated as if they were government commitments, which they were not, the panel said.

Japan must dismantle numerical trade policies already in place by "as early a date as possible" while it should ensure that the private sector does not take similar measures in the future, the panel said.

Matsushita, professor at the University of Tokyo, dismissed a U.S. call for Tokyo's introduction of numerical targets as a way to further open up Japan's markets.

There is no relationship between market shares and the degree to which the market is closed, Matsushita said, noting foreign shares in a given country are determined by various factors such as differences in competitiveness, business efforts by exporters and consumer preferences. The United States would contradict itself by saying the Japanese chip market is closed because of a U.S. chip share in the market of less than 20 percent against its 40 percent share in the global market, Matsushita said.

Japanese-made chips command a 40 percent global market share while their share in the U.S. is only 20 percent, he explained.

To oblige a user to buy more than they require is tantamount to "abandoning the principles of a market economy," Matsushita said. He also said a numerical trade target policy represents a "complete disregard of normal selection criteria such as quality and prices," noting the policy would result in a "waste of taxpayers' money" and "a loss of economic benefits" for them.

He said the policy is also "completely" against the principles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which is aimed at "strict adherence to the rules of international trade." Matsushita said preferential treatment of certain countries under the policy violates Article I of the GATT provision, which calls for most-favored-nation treatment among countries.

U.S. Request Regarding Semiconductors 'Rejected'

OW1901130694 Tokyo KYODO in English 1253 GMT
19 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 19 KYODO—The United States called Wednesday [19 January] for new action to boost the share of foreign semiconductors in the Japanese market but Japan rejected the request, officials said. Both sides said Tokyo does not view as serious recent declines back below the 20 percent goal for foreign share

of the Japanese microchip market, a level reached last year after high-profile talks that prompted criticism as managed trade.

"We were disappointed," said a U.S. trade official, citing Japan's "lack of willingness to take the measures necessary" to prevent the microchip issue from reemerging as "a point of contention" before a bilateral summit on February 11.

A Japanese Trade Ministry official said Tokyo rejected the call for new steps because, despite recent share declines, foreign access to the Japanese market has steadily expanded and efforts in the area were being rewarded.

"You don't have to alternate between hope and despair over quarterly figures," the Japanese official told reporters, speaking on condition of anonymity. But the U.S. official told a separate briefing, also on condition his name not be used, that last year witnessed "a continuous decline for foreign market share."

Noting that broad-based bilateral talks that aim at agreement before the meeting between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa include a review of existing accords, he said the microchip issue will likely be "another problem to be dealt with."

But, touching on an area of strong Japanese objections, the U.S. official said the specific target-setting used in semiconductors "is not necessarily the right approach for all products or for all areas we have problems with." He also expressed hope that Wednesday's "emergency consultations," which Washington requested, will lead Japan to "take a more forthcoming and activist approach to the issue."

No date was set for further semiconductor talks.

The U.S. made no specific proposals but asked Tokyo to craft a plan to boost foreign microchip use in autos, telecommunications and video games, increase "design-in" opportunities and consider reviving some earlier steps, the U.S. official said.

The U.S. reckons that the foreign share of Japan's microchip market fell to 18.1 percent in the quarter through September from 19.2 percent in the preceding three months and 19.6 percent in the first quarter of 1993. Japan, which includes in its calculations "captive" microchips sold by foreign makers to their subsidiaries in Japan, says the July-September figure was 19.7 percent, after 21.6 percent and 21.5 percent, respectively, in the previous two quarters.

Medical Talks With U.S. End 'Without Progress'

OW1901083094 Tokyo KYODO in English 0818 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 19 KYODO—Japan and the United States Wednesday [19 January] ended two days of working-level talks on government procurement of medical

equipment, a priority sector of the bilateral trade framework negotiations, without progress, government sources said.

Japan offered a new concession by lowering a minimum value of medical equipment to be bought through open tenders to 100,000 special drawing rights (SDRs), or about 15 million yen, from 130,000 SDRs, while the U.S. side stood pat on its demand for cutting the minimum value to 5,000 SDRs, the sources said.

Among other outstanding points was how to revise Japan's procurement procedures with a view to improving market access for foreign medical technology, they said.

U.S. negotiators asked Japan to increase transparency and openness of its government procurement market by introducing American systems, which Tokyo claimed are not necessarily applicable to the Japanese systems, they said. Both sides will continue discussing the issue at a subcabinet-level meeting scheduled for January 23 and 24 in Washington, which could be followed by a working-level meeting, they said.

The working-level talks did not take up the matter of "objective criteria," which is a main issue on the agenda of the subcabinet-level negotiations, they said.

Plan To Ask Australia to G-7 Summit Dropped

OW1901075994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0632 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 19 KYODO—A Japanese proposal to invite Australia to a job summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized nations in March is being dropped because of strong U.S. opposition, Japanese Government sources reported Wednesday [19 January]. Japan wanted to ask Australia to the summit as a way to ease criticism from the United States and Europe that exports from Asia are responsible for growing unemployment in their countries.

Washington strongly opposed the proposal, though the reasons were not known, the sources said.

The summit, to be held in the suburbs of Washington on March 14 and 15, will be attended by cabinet ministers in charge of labor affairs from the G-7 members—Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

The meeting was originally proposed by Japan in 1991, but failed to materialize earlier because of a lukewarm response from the administration of then President George Bush. The U.S. changed its stance, however, after President Bill Clinton came to power, they said.

The summit has been scaled down from Clinton's idea of gathering of prime ministers and presidents of the G-7 countries. Employment will also be a major item on the agenda at the annual G-7 summit to be held in July in Naples, Italy, they said.

Dispatch of SDF to Former Yugoslavia Suggested
*OW1901051494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0440 GMT
19 Jan 94*

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 19 KYODO—Japan does not intend to dispatch Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel to the former Yugoslavia to join UN peacekeeping operations there, Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura said Wednesday [19 January].

The commander of the UN Protection Force in Macedonia suggested to a Japanese delegation last week that Japan could dispatch SDF personnel to the region to serve as unarmed military observers. The mission, which left Japan on January 7 and returned January 17, investigated possible areas for an expanded Japanese contribution to the international peacekeeping efforts under way in the former Yugoslavia.

Takemura told a news conference that mission head Shunji Yanai reported that the commander told him "in a general manner of speaking" that "it would be good if he could have (personnel) dispatched from Japan." Yanai, director general of the Foreign Ministry's foreign policy bureau, reportedly did not immediately respond to the request.

Takemura said he had instructed Yanai to "respond with discretion so as not to cause misunderstanding."

Yasushi Akashi, the Japanese national who heads UN peacekeeping operations in the former Yugoslavia, also asked the mission to send personnel to the UN mission in the region. Yanai said Akashi did not specify whether he sought military or civilian personnel.

Official Says No Decision Yet

*OW1901111294 Tokyo KYODO in English 1040 GMT
19 Jan 94*

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 19 KYODO—Japan has not yet decided whether it is legally possible to send peacekeepers to the former Yugoslavia, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday [19 January]. Shunji Yanai, who headed a Japanese survey team to the former Yugoslavia, told a press conference the ministry has to study various requests made during the mission's trip to decide what kind of contributions Japan can make.

The ministry will then ask for a judgment from the foreign minister, the chief cabinet secretary and the prime minister, Yanai said, adding that there have not been any "specific instructions" from them.

Yanai, director general of the ministry's Foreign Policy Bureau, said Tokyo has to study the legal aspects of whether it is possible to send unarmed military observers to Macedonia as requested by the commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Macedonia last week. Yanai said he did not immediately respond when Brig. Gen. Saermark Thomsen [name as received] made the request in person.

Yanai's remarks followed comments by Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura earlier in the day that Japan does not intend to dispatch Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel to join U.N. peacekeeping operations in the former Yugoslavia. Takemura told a press conference he had instructed Yanai to "respond with discretion so as not to cause misunderstanding."

On Sunday, Yanai said in Budapest after wrapping up his nine-day survey mission that it is "worth considering" Thomsen's request and that Japan could send peacekeepers to Macedonia if the nation agreed to the dispatch since no military conflict has broken out there.

Japan's law on U.N. peacekeeping cooperation bans any deployment of peacekeepers in a nation that rejects them.

Yanai explained at Wednesday's press conference that he was pressed to present his personal view in Budapest. He also said Yasushi Akashi, head of the UNPROFOR, has asked Japan to participate in consultations among major countries at the UNPROFOR headquarters in Zagreb, Croatia, to discuss problems in the region.

Akashi reportedly said he wants to set up a consultation system because such a system was effective in U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) activities. In Cambodia, permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, Indonesia, Japan, Australia and ambassadors of other nations in Phnom Penh held talks whenever problems occurred, Akashi was quoted as saying.

Akashi said he wants Japan to participate in the proposed consultation system because it is not directly participating in UNPROFOR activities and because it is in a position to consult on problems of great international interest, according to Yanai.

Yanai also said that during his trip, officials of Croatia, Slovenia and Macedonia strongly called for strengthening ties with Japan at both the government and private sector levels. Macedonia also asked for economic assistance and cooperation to solve its debt problem, he said.

International organizations engaging in humanitarian activities in the former Yugoslavia cited the lack of facilities to accommodate refugees and also medical and other goods, he said.

In a related move the same day, Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata said Japan has appointed a Foreign Ministry official as political officer to assist Akashi, as part of Japan's contributions there. Tomiko Ichikawa, assistant director of the U.N. Administration Division in the ministry's Foreign Policy Bureau, is the first woman among five Japanese political officers dispatched in connection with U.N. peacekeeping operations.

Tokyo on Concerns Over Military Intentions*OW1501091794 Tokyo KYODO in English 0839 GMT
15 Jan 94*

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 15 KYODO—Japan will assure other Asian states at July's security forum for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) that it will never become a major military power, Foreign Ministry sources said Saturday [15 January]. The sources said Japan will do its best to dispel such concern among Asian nations and to gain their confidence.

Japan's occupation of many Asian countries before and during World War II still keeps ASEAN nations nervous about the country's military intentions.

Foreign ministers from six ASEAN member countries and their dialogue partners agreed at a 1993 session to set up the forum to discuss security matters in the region. Representatives from 18 countries and international organizations will attend the forum's first session at the foreign minister level in Bangkok.

At the session, Japan will reaffirm the importance of the U.S. presence in the region, and brief participants on its defense policy in an effort to boost their trust and strengthen relations with them as key partners, the sources said.

As part of efforts to dispel Asia's concern, Japan will explain its policy of continuing to shoulder the costs for U.S. forces in Japan, they said.

China's military modernization and concerns over North Korea's suspected development of nuclear weapons are also likely to be taken up as topics at the forum.

ASEAN links Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Among the 18 other countries and organizations attending the session will be the European Union, Japan, Russia and the United States.

Ex-Im Bank Plans To Maintain Support to Russia*OW1701102794 Tokyo KYODO in English 0945 GMT
17 Jan 94*

[Text] Osaka, Jan. 17 KYODO—The Export-Import Bank of Japan will make no change in its financial support to Russia despite the resignation of the nation's economic reform leader, the bank's governor said Monday [17 January].

Mitsuhide Yamaguchi said at a press conference in Osaka that the Ex-Im Bank will basically maintain its stance on financial aid to Russia despite the resignation of First Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar on Sunday from President Boris Yeltsin's government.

Yamaguchi made the comment after growing speculation that Russian economic reforms may be delayed because of Gaydar's resignation. He said, however, that

the bank needs to take a careful look at the development of Russia's economic policy.

Some analysts said Gaydar's resignation may have an adverse effect on relations between Russia and international financial bodies like the International Monetary Fund.

India Urged To Join NPT, Accept Inspections*OW1701120594 Tokyo KYODO in English 1104 GMT
17 Jan 94*

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 17 KYODO—Japan urged India to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) to sweep away international concern about its development of nuclear weapons, Foreign Ministry officials said Monday [17 January]. Japan made the call during bilateral talks in Tokyo on nuclear nonproliferation, the second of their kind between the two nations, the officials said.

Japan is greatly concerned about India's nuclear development problem in view of its guidelines on implementing official development assistance (ODA), they said.

The guidelines require Japan to take into account, when extending ODA, the recipient nation's military expenditure and development, production, import and export of weapons, missiles and mass-destruction weapons.

Japan also called on India to accept inspections of certain nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to improve the transparency of its nuclear development plans, the officials said.

The Indian delegation, pointing out that India's basic policy is the total abolition of nuclear weapons worldwide, called on nuclear power nations to make commitments to abolish nuclear weapons by presenting specific schedules, they said.

India also told Japan it basically supports the nuclear test ban treaty and a treaty to ban production of fissionable materials, they said.

India will be able to meet Japan's demand to improve transparency of its nuclear plans if the treaty to ban production of fissionable materials takes effect, the Indian delegation was quoted as saying.

Also in the talks, Japan pointed out the importance of holding multilateral talks to discuss security in Southwest Asia, including nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and missiles. India told Japan that if such talks are held, it is necessary to invite all nations that could influence security in Southwest Asia and ensure that all nations shoulder equal obligations, the officials said.

Touching on India's relations with Pakistan, the Indian delegation explained that the ties are still tense despite talks between vice foreign ministers of both countries, they said.

Japan and India held their first bilateral meeting on nuclear nonproliferation last March in Delhi. The Japanese and Indian delegations agreed to hold a third round of talks this year, the officials said.

Vietnamese Trade Exposition Opens in Tokyo

*OW1901101294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0956 GMT
19 Jan 94*

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 19 KYODO—A major Vietnamese trade exposition opened in Tokyo on Wednesday [19 January] with Hanoi officials expressing hope for vastly increased exports to Japan into the future.

"Japan is a very important market for our exports," said Duong Ky Anh, a senior official of the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which cosponsored the exposition along with the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO). Duong said he hoped the exposition and other events like it to follow will help to vastly increase Vietnam's exports to Japan, the country's largest export market.

According to Japanese Finance Ministry figures, Vietnam's exports to Japan registered 870 million dollars in 1992 compared with 196 million dollars in 1988.

Duong estimated his country's exports to Japan rocketed up to 1.2 billion dollars in 1993. He expressed hope the figure will rise as high as 1.6 billion dollars in 1994.

The exposition, supported by both the Japanese and Vietnamese Governments, is the first of its kind ever held in Japan focusing on Vietnamese goods. It lasts until January 27 and precedes the holding of a major Japanese industrial product trade fair in Hanoi next March.

Representatives from 25 Vietnamese companies are exhibiting such potential export items as shrimp, coffee, handicrafts, furniture and clothing.

Duong said Vietnam wants in 1994 to double the amount earned last year when mineral fuels, mostly crude oil, made up over half of the value of Vietnam's exports to Japan. He said Vietnam anticipates increasing the value of marine products exported to Japan from the 350 million dollars earned in 1993 to 500 million dollars in 1994.

Exports to Japan of marine products, including frozen shrimp, fish, and squid, have already almost doubled over 1992.

Duong called for more Japanese investment in Vietnam, especially in infrastructure. He said there is a particular need for equipment from Japan that can be used to improve the quality of Vietnamese products for export.

The official also said his country must endeavor to attract greater numbers of Japanese tourists to earn badly needed hard currency.

Assessing the "privileges and shortcomings" in Vietnam's trade relationship with Japan, Duong said the privileges include their relative geographical proximity and their dramatically improved political ties. He said the shortcomings include problems with the quality of processed Vietnamese products.

"To some extent we cannot meet the strict requirements of this market," he said. "We have to improve our quality drastically, otherwise we cannot enter."

Duong pointed to "keen competition" from other countries like China, Thailand and Indonesia which export similar products.

Resumption of Burma National Convention Greeted

*OW1801095194 Tokyo KYODO in English 0937 GMT
18 Jan 94*

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 18 KYODO—Japan gave on Tuesday [18 January] a guarded welcome to Myanmar's [Burma's] resumption of its national convention to discuss a new constitution. Foreign Ministry spokesman Terusuke Terada said Japan wants to closely watch the deliberations at the convention, which resumed Tuesday after adjournments four times.

The Japanese Government hopes that progress will be made in the deliberations and that democracy will be achieved as soon as possible, he said.

Myanmar's military junta, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), has nullified the results of a 1990 election in which Nobel prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy won a landslide victory, and has said elections will be held after a new constitution is adopted.

Investment in Europe Shrinks 24.7 Percent

*OW1701092394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0831 GMT
17 Jan 94*

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 17 KYODO—Japanese investment in Europe dwindled by 24.7 percent to 7.06 billion dollars between June 1992 and July 1993 and Europe's share of overall Japanese overseas investment has slipped, too, according to a study released Monday [17 January].

The report by the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan said that while 22.5 percent of Japanese overseas investment in the previous survey period, which covered 14 months, went to Europe—including Turkey and the successor states to the former Soviet Union—Europe's share this time shrank to 20.7 percent. Europe will remain an important investment market, however, the survey forecasts.

"The drop in investments is not caused by a declining interest (in Europe) or lesser competitive pressure among Japanese enterprises, but reflects a certain investment saturation and the current economic slump," it said.

As in previous years, Britain received the lion's share of Japan's European investment, some 2.95 billion dollars, followed by the Netherlands with 1.45 billion dollars, Germany with 769 million dollars, and France with 456 million dollars.

Of a total of 538 investments, some 378 or 70.8 percent were in the manufacturing industry. Car production ranked top with 92 investments, followed by the electronics industry with 89 projects, and the chemical and pharmaceutical industries with 54.

Japanese companies concentrate their investment activities on those sectors where the Europeans hold a substantial market share, such as environmental technology, chemicals and pharmaceuticals as well as car manufacturing, the survey says.

In response to an increasing international pressure on Japan to cut its trade surplus, the high yen and stricter regulations on local content, Japan's internationalization will continue, the survey predicts.

"Taking into account that a relatively low 7 percent of Japan's production occurs abroad compared with 25 percent for the United States, another investment offensive might just be a matter of time," it said.

Reportage on Political Reform Issue Continues

LDP's Mori, Minister Ouchi Comment

OW1701021594

[Editorial Report] Tokyo FNN Television Network in Japanese at 2230 GMT on 15 January, in its regularly-scheduled "News 2001" program, carries a 34-minute interview with Yoshiro Mori, Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] secretary general, and another 34-minute interview with Keigo Ouchi, health and welfare minister, on political reform issues.

The live interview with the LDP's Mori begins at 2238 GMT. When asked about the LDP's attitude toward upper house debates on the political reform bills, Mori notes the coalition government should accept the LDP's opinions on three major points of the reform bills. Mori says: "The first question is about the quota and allotment of lower house seats. Under the LDP proposal, seats of the lower house should be reduced to 471—300 for single-seat constituencies and 171 for proportional representation constituency... [pauses] Second, the size of the proportional representation constituency should also be reviewed. If the proportional representation election for the lower house is conducted under a single nationwide constituency, there will be no difference in style between the upper and lower houses. Countries which have the parliamentary cabinet system and two houses cannot adopt the same election system in both houses. In this regard, we are insisting that each prefecture must have a constituency for the proportional representation election. And finally, we must provide

legal control over individual politicians' fund management organizations, which have been left untouched. The coalition government says individual politicians do not have to receive money in the future, and all political donations must be concentrated to political parties. That is the ideal situation, and it may be possible to enforce the rule on Diet members. However, not all local-level politicians belong to specific parties. For example, 95 percent of mayors and governors are independent from any parties. It is impossible to take all funds from them."

In response to a question asking if the LDP will seek a positive settlement of the political reform issue through the summit meeting between Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and LDP President Yohei Kono, Mori says: "I have been saying that, if the ruling parties really want to enact the bills, they have to make proposals acceptable to us." Referring to the previous Hosokawa-Kono talks held immediately before the lower house's approval of the political reform bills, Mori questions Hosokawa's leadership in the coalition parties, saying: "During the previous meeting with the president, he made no compromise on major points of the bills. It may be very rude to say this, but it is questionable if he had decision-making authority. I think he had no decision at that time."

The moderator asks Mori about the possibility of another political regrouping this year, and Mori says he thinks there is a "fifty-fifty" chance.

Following Mori, Ouchi, Health and Welfare Minister who concurrently serves as chairman of the Democratic Socialist Party [DSP], begins to speak at 2313 GMT.

Asked if the coalition government is seeking the enactment of the political reform bills during the ongoing extraordinary Diet session without further revision, Ouchi says: "Generally speaking, that is true. If the bills are revised further in the upper house, they will again be placed under discussions in the lower house. Probably, we will not have time to do so. Under such circumstances, we are planning to enact the bills without further revision as a stopgap measure, and to discuss necessary revisions at the next ordinary Diet session. However, I personally have some questions about the appropriateness of such a methodology."

In reply to a question on the DSP's future partner when the political regrouping takes place again, Ouchi says: "We will join forces with democracy-oriented parties or politicians. Also, our partners must have the completely same stance as us toward policies on Japan's fundamental systems." Regarding the possibilities of another political regrouping, Ouchi says "I am over 80 percent certain."

Coalition Agrees To LDP Talks

OW1801131794 Tokyo KYODO in English 1240 GMT
18 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 18 KYODO—The ruling coalition decided Tuesday [18 January] to accept the Liberal

Democratic Party's [LDP's] call for talks aimed at striking a compromise over LDP proposals to modify a government-proposed political reform package, its chief negotiator said.

Yuichi Ichikawa, secretary general of Komeito, told reporters the coalition will resume bargaining with the LDP over the package of four bills designed to revamp Japan's electoral system for the House of Representatives and alter political fund-raising methods.

Ichikawa made the remarks minutes after Yoshiro Mori, secretary general of the main opposition LDP, told a news conference that the ruling coalition should accept three out of the 10 demands it had put forward to the coalition Monday.

The first of the three demands calls for increasing the number of single-seat lower chamber constituencies from the government-proposed 274 to 280 out of a proposed 500-seat chamber, while reducing the number of seats to be appropriated under proportional representation to 220 from 226.

The second is for splitting up a proposed nationwide proportional representation constituency for the 220 seats into several regional electoral blocs.

Political analysts say many LDP legislators fear the package might force them to run in alien constituencies located far from their home based electoral districts where they have a well-cultivated network of supporters.

The third demand calls for authorizing business firms to hand over donations to the fund-raising organizations of individual politicians by dropping the proposed legal requirement to unify fund-raising channels into a political party.

In contrast, the government-proposed bill would obligate potential corporate donors to give money to a political party, which would then be entrusted with distributing the money to individual politicians.

Mori said, "If the LDP and the coalition could strike a broad agreement to accept the three demands, including the bloc-based proportional representation constituency, the two camps would have to work out, in a next Diet session, the details of modifications that may not be hammered out due to technical and time constraints."

Mori said the LDP leadership would instruct its legislators to vote for the government-proposed package in Wednesday's vote in a crucial committee of the House of Councillors, if the coalition accepted the three demands.

The LDP wants to finalize the details of the compromise deal in a proposed summit between LDP President Yohei Kono and Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, expected to take place Wednesday, LDP sources said.

The coalition decided to resume bargaining with the LDP in view of a growing number of dissident socialist legislators who have remained adamant in rejecting the

Social Democratic Party (SDP) leadership's calls to vote with the coalition, Diet sources said. The SDP is the largest in the seven-party coalition.

Political analysts predicted that if more than 10 SDP legislators voted against the reform package in the 252-member upper chamber, the package could be rejected. The coalition has only a slim majority.

The coalition also fears that if it agrees to give too much ground to the LDP, it might antagonize the SDP legislators who have called for minimizing the number of seats to be contested at single-seat constituencies, the sources said.

Meanwhile, the leaders of the coalition partners decided to try to strike a compromise by arranging a meeting between Juro Saito, chief of the group of the LDP's upper chamber legislators, and Manzo Hamamoto, Saito's SDP counterpart, coalition officials said.

If necessary, the officials said, the coalition will seek to reconcile differences that may remain unresolved even by the Saito-Hamamoto talks, by arranging another bargaining session between Mori and Ichikawa or even the summit between Hosokawa and Kono.

The coalition leaders also confirmed that they will not scrap their own parliamentary schedule of trying to push the package through the upper chamber committee on Wednesday, whatever developments might occur at these forums for a compromise. They said the coalition will try to push the package through the plenary session of the upper chamber by Friday.

Coalition, LDP Begin Talks 19 Jan

*OW1901040294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0334 GMT
19 Jan 94*

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 19 KYODO—The ruling coalition and the main opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) began talks Wednesday [19 January] to try to strike a deal on the final shape of political reform. The discussion came after leaders in the House of Councillors from both sides agreed in a preliminary meeting that they will negotiate on possible amendments to government-sponsored political reform bills.

Juro Saito, chairman of LDP members in the upper house, told reporters that the coalition and the LDP agreed to search for a compromise in the upper chamber rather than through a proposed summit between Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and LDP President Yohei Kono.

The government bills, aimed at weeding out rampant political corruption, cleared the House of Representatives in mid-November.

Upper house debate on the package, which features changes to the electoral system for the lower house and tighter curbs on campaign funding, is to be concluded on

Wednesday, paving the way for a vote by an upper house panel and a final vote at a plenary session of the upper chamber.

Representatives of the coalition and the LDP in the upper house are discussing the LDP's compromise proposals, one of which calls for a change to the balance between single-seat districts and the proportional representation system for lower house elections.

On the possibility of a summit between Hosokawa and Kono, Saito said only, "it depends on developments in our talks."

Hosokawa has staked his political future on enactment of necessary reform legislation in the current Diet session, which ends January 29.

Negotiations Continue on Package

OW1901112694 Tokyo KYODO in English 1101 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 19 KYODO—The eleventh-hour talks between the ruling coalition and No. 1 opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) went on and off Wednesday [19 January] to strike a compromise over LDP demands to modify a government-proposed political reform package, legislators said. The bargaining continued among Juro Saito, chief of the LDP's House of Councillors members, Manso Hamamoto, Saito's Social Democratic Party counterpart, and Hiroshi Tsuruoka, his Komeito [Clean Government Party] counterpart, they said.

The package of four bills are designed to completely redesign the mechanism of electing members of the House of Representatives of the two-chamber Diet, while unifying politicians' funds-raising channels into the coffer of a political party.

So far, the three have failed to reconcile a gulf between the two camps over the three demands, including the one calling for a raise from 274 to 280 the number of lower chamber seats to be contested at single-seat constituencies in an LDP-proposed, 500-seat chamber, they said.

Coalition officials said Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa will seek to alleviate the remaining differences in a summit talk with LDP President Yohei Kono in a bid to secure the parliamentary passage of the package. The package cleared the lower chamber's plenary session on November 18.

The second of the three demands calls for splitting up the single nationwide electorate for the proportional representation portion of the 500-seat chamber into several regional blocs.

The third calls for authorizing businesses to donate up to 240,000 yen annually to the two funds-raising organizations of individual politicians, while pegging the number of such organizations at two for a politician.

This compares with the government-proposed bill that would place a ban on donations to individual politicians, while obligating would-be corporate donors to donate to the coffer of each political party, which would be entrusted with distributing the money to party members.

Meanwhile, the two camps hammered out a few accords to effect minor modifications of the package, the party officials said. One such modification calls for softening a proposed legal requirement that only political parties that mustered more than 3 percent of valid votes cast in the most recent general election or upper house election be recognized as a legitimate party.

The accord lowered the threshold of qualifications of a party to 2 percent, they said. Unless a party met the requirement, the package would not qualify it to receive a government subsidy to finance its activities to be appropriated out of a proposed 30.9 billion yen fund.

The coalition and opposition camps are likely to end up accepting compromise proposals to create a 510-member lower chamber, at which 280 seats would come from single-seat districts and the remaining 230 seats be appropriated by proportional representation, Diet sources said.

The two camps are also likely to accept another compromise to authorize the legislators of prefectural and city assemblies to accept donations in person from businesses, while keeping a ban on acceptance of donations by Diet members except for by way of a party coffer, they said.

Talks Fail To Resolve Differences

OW1901140294 Tokyo KYODO in English 1346 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 19 KYODO—The ruling coalition and the main opposition Liberal Democratic Party failed Wednesday [19 January] to narrow differences over the government's political reform bills.

The coalition was poised Wednesday night to vote on the package at the House of Councillors Special Committee on Political Reform.

LDP Secretary General Yoshiro Mori said his party will not resume talks with the coalition Wednesday over possible revisions of the package.

Eleventh-hour talks between the coalition and LDP took place earlier in the day in an attempt to compromise on LDP demands to modify the bills. The talks involved Juro Saito, chief of the LDP's House of Councillors members, Manso Hamamoto, Saito's Social Democratic Party counterpart, and Hiroshi Tsuruoka, his Komeito [Clean Government Party] counterpart.

The government package cleared the lower chamber on November 18.

The coalition holds a slim majority in the upper house. Some dissent in the Social Democratic Party, the largest

force in the coalition, and the LDP have made the passage of the package unclear.

Hosokawa has staked the fate of his six-month administration on the passage of the package during the current Diet session, which ends on January 29.

Hosokawa 'Indirectly' Says Loan Used in Election
OW1901132894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1318 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 19 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa indirectly acknowledged Wednesday [19 January] that a large portion of the 100 million yen payment in 1982 which he claims was a loan from the scandal-tainted Sagawa Kyubin trucking firm was to secure his election funds for a Kumamoto gubernatorial election one year later. Hosokawa made the remarks at a meeting of the House of Councillors Special Committee on Political Reform.

Responding to a question from Liberal Democratic Party member Minao Hattori about 77 million yen of the 100 million yen from Sagawa Kyubin, Hosokawa said the money "was not directly for election," but that he "had to secure my own assets to prepare for the gubernatorial election."

On the use of the 77 million yen, Hosokawa had said he used the money to purchase a condominium in central Tokyo. As for the remaining 23 million yen, the premier has said he used the money to repair the front gate and wall of his residence in Kumamoto, western Japan.

Hosokawa has said he repaid the loan by January 31, 1991, using part of his retirement allowance, after stepping down as governor of Kumamoto, in addition to using the proceeds from the sale of a plot of land in Tokyo.

Hosokawa served as governor of Kumamoto Prefecture for two consecutive terms from 1983 until February 1991.

Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin, one of the Sagawa Kyubin Group firms, was the central firm in the 1992 money-and-mob scandal. Former kingpin Shin Kanemaru was forced to resign from politics after admitting he had received 500 million yen in undeclared donations from the firm.

BOJ's Mieno Returns From BIS Meeting
OW1201025194 Tokyo KYODO in English 0238 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 12 KYODO—Bank of Japan [BOJ] Governor Yasushi Mieno returned Wednesday [12 January] morning from Switzerland where he attended a monthly meeting of the Bank of International Settlements (BIS).

Industry Sources: Domestic Rice Prices Rising
OW1901104094 Tokyo KYODO in English 1012 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 19 KYODO—Prices of popular brands of domestic rice sold from outlets outside government control have been rising as retailers are stepping up purchasing such rice, industry sources said Wednesday [19 January].

The retailers have begun actively buying popular brand rice, fearing imported rice, which will be on sale in March, will have more low-quality Thailand-made long-grain rice as medium- and short-grain rice imports from China will be reduced due to bad crop.

The price of Koshihikari, the most popular brand of rice harvested in Niigata Prefecture, for instance, has been renewing its record high. It is traded at near 40,000 yen per 60 kilogram in a free market.

The government has decided to import more than one million tons of foreign rice to make up for a shortage in supplies caused by last year's poor harvest, the worst during the postwar period.

The Food Agency told rice retailers that 30 percent of imported rice to be on sale from March to June will be Thai long-grain rice.

The prices of Koshihikari harvested in Ibaraki Prefecture and Akitakomachi of Akita Prefecture were 36,000-37,500 yen Wednesday, up 3,000-4,000 yen from the previous week.

Nissan Motor Co. Head Rules Out Pay Cuts
OW1701061994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0544 GMT 17 Jan 94

[Text] Nagoya, Jan. 17 KYODO—The president of Nissan Motor Co. indicated Monday [17 January] that the major automaker may keep the wage scale of its workers this spring unchanged, although he ruled out a possible wage cut.

Yoshifumi Tsuji told a news conference in Nagoya that the company has no intention of cutting wages, but freezing the wage scale is one option.

Tsuji added that the company has no plan to review the present system for negotiating summer and year-end bonuses in a package. It will continue production cuts in the early part of fiscal 1994, starting April 1, as it is doing in the latter half of fiscal 1993.

His remark indicated that the company will give five to eight extra days off to workers during the April-September period.

North Korea**Daily: Nuclear Issue Caused by U.S. Policy**

SK1901103694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1029 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Pyongyang, January 19 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries an article headlined "Nuclear Issue of Korean Peninsula Must Be Solved Quickly."

The author of the article says:

Whether the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula is resolved or not is a matter concerning the survival and ruin of the Korean people.

It was entirely caused by the U.S. policy of turning South Korea into its nuclear base. In July 1957 the U.S. Army officially announced the start of the nuclear armament of its troops in South Korea. After that nearly all types nuclear weapons produced in the United States were deployed in South Korea, and their number exceeded 1,000.

From 1976 the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises, a test nuclear war, have been staged every year in South Korea with nuclear weapons hurled into them.

Though the U.S. declared the withdrawal of nuclear weapons, they are left intact in South Korea.

If they are used, the Korean nation will be the first sufferer.

The nuclear problem of the Korean peninsula must be solved soon for peace and security in Asia and the world.

The United States is using the nuclear weapons as the main means of executing its dominationist policy. The nuclear weapons in South Korea can not be an exception.

If the nuclear issue becomes acute on the Korean peninsula and nuclear weapons are used, many countries would suffer the holocaust.

The nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula can be solved only through dialogue and negotiation between the DPRK and the USA.

It will be fundamentally solved, if the third-round DPRK-USA talks are opened with sincere will of dialogue and fair attitude toward talks and the formula of package deal is adopted there, as agreed upon at the contact on December 29 last year.

Kim Yong-sam's Economic 'Treachery' Denounced

SK1401235594 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 14 Jan 94

[Commentary by Yun Pyong-son: "The Traitor's Shirking of Responsibility"]

[Text] According to a report, puppet traitor Kim Yong-sam, at a meeting of receiving reports on the so-called

work plans for this year on 13 January, babbled that industrial peace should be maintained and an atmosphere for restraining wage hikes should be made to prevail this year, thus pretending that this would be measures to win in international competition.

This is a cunning, shameless tactic which only the traitor turning away from the people, a filthy flunkyist nation-seller, can mention. As everyone knows, the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique promised the U.S. masters toward the end of last year to totally open the South Korean rice market. At the Uruguay Round negotiation as well, the clique agreed to all the demand for opening markets.

The grave consequences of the nation-selling treachery which the Kim Yong-sam traitorous clique committed, including the opening of the rice market, will come not only in rupturing the South Korean agriculture and leading the 6 million peasants to destruction. It will seriously affect other sectors of the economy as well, bringing about catastrophic results.

The Daewoo Economic Institute said that with the settlement of the Uruguay Round negotiation, the small and medium industries, whose competitiveness is fragile, could go bankrupt, and that unemployment will become a major social problem. The Samsung Economic Institute also predicted that imports will increase in such areas as foodstuff, textile, and machinery, bringing about grave consequences. These economic institutes had good reason to make such predictions.

The market opening will thus lead the South Korean economy to irreversible catastrophe, increasing unemployment and leading the lives of workers to further destitution. Traitor Kim Yong-sam raved about the maintenance of industrial peace and restraining wage hike as if they were some effective measures to win in international competition. However, it is impossible for the South Korean economy to win international competition, for the South Korean economy has nothing of its own worth mentioning but consists of the vulnerable colonial subjugated economy in which it can carry on only such a thing as bonded processing trade with others' capital, technology, facilities, and materials.

The puppets are raving about international competitiveness only to shirk responsibility for the catastrophic crisis that will result from opening markets. The Kim Yong-sam clique raved about maintenance of industrial peace and restraining wage hikes with a sinister purpose of forcing obedience and sacrifice upon the workers and further stepping up suppression of the labor movement so as to stabilize its power. The puppet traitor on that day stressed the need to persuade the labor unions of the major business groups, which lead the labor movement for wage hikes. Before this, he stressed the need for the relevant departments to actively cooperate for the settlement of industrial peace. He also said that although the workers' strike is not against the law, he will have the right of emergency coordination exercised. All this proves his said sinister purpose.

Traitor Kim Yong-sam is a rare fascist tyrant who does not hesitate anything if it serves to fill his personal greed for power. He is a politico, a filthy impostor who habitually deceives and mocks the people. He disguises himself under the mask of a civilian regime and pretend to do something for the people, but he is a more cunning and shameless person than his predecessor military dictators.

It is expected that the workers will wage a more vigorous struggle in South Korea this year resisting the puppets' flunkyist nation-selling economic policy and antipeople labor policy. Fearing this, the puppets are attempting to prevent their struggle by means of temptation, coercion, appeasement, and deception. This, however, will not work. The South Korean workers will not move off from the struggle out of fear of suppression.

The criminal will be punished according to the crime he committed. The Kim Yong-sam puppet clique, which is habitually engaged in nation-selling treachery and suppression of the people, turning away from the country and the nation, will certainly be subjected to the people's stern judgment.

Commentary Urges Kim Yong-sam To Resign

*SK1901013594 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 18 Jan 94*

[Commentary by Chong Pong-kil: "Challenge to the Aspiration for Reunification"]

[Text] The Kim Yong-sam ring's fascist oppression maneuvers become more vicious as the days go by.

According to Seoul radio, on 17 January the Seoul Police Administration arrested Ho Hyon-chun, a senior at the Chonbuk University, who was involved in the August 1993 Pan-National Rally as vice chairman of the South side's Headquarters of the National Alliance of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification [Pomchonghangnyon], and took him into custody on charges of violating the National Security Law.

Student Ho Hyon-chun was wanted by the puppet police on the charge of attempting to make a telephone call to a representative of the Korean Student Council of the northern half of the Republic, who was in Beijing, China, during the inauguration ceremony of the Korea Federation of University Student Councils held at the Koryo University last 28 May.

The puppet police arrested the vice chairman of the South side's Pomchonghangnyon Headquarters at a time when the aspiration for the fatherland's reunification has been increasing among fellow countrymen in the North, the South, and overseas since the beginning of the new year. This is a vicious challenge to the fellow countrymen's aspiration for reunification as well as an open fascist oppression of South Korean youth and students' rightful struggle for the fatherland's reunification and has caused a burning national indignation.

As everyone knows, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught in his historical New Year's address that all Korean compatriots in the North, the South, and overseas should open a new phase of the fatherland's reunification this year by carrying out a nationwide struggle, united in one under the banner of the great unity of the whole nation.

Greatly encouraged by the great leader's New Year's address, the people in the northern half of the Republic have been vigorously carrying out the struggle for socialist construction and for the fatherland's reunification since the beginning of the new year. The South Korean people and overseas compatriots are also actively struggling to achieve the reunification in the nineties, with a new aspiration for the fatherland's reunification.

Reflecting this trend of the time, the South Korean Democratic Party leader Yi Ki-taek held a New Year's news conference and expressed his concern about the current South-North relations and his willingness to visit Pyongyang and meet the great leader in order to improve the deadlocked South-North relations. Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, supported and welcomed Yi's willingness to visit Pyongyang, saying it is a natural expression of intense patriotism by a person who is concerned about the destiny of the country and the nation.

Now is the time for all fellow countrymen in the North, the South, and overseas to launch into the struggle to achieve the great national unity after overcoming ideological and systemic differences. At this time, the South Korean puppets put a South Korean student on the wanted list and finally arrested him simply because he had attempted a telephone call to the North's youth and students. This was like throwing cold water on the South Korean students' and people's fervent aspiration for the fatherland's reunification, and clearly showed the rascals' real nature as the enemy of the reunification and fascist tyrants who does not have the slightest will for reunification.

If the Kim Yong-sam ring really practiced civilian politics, which they have noisily been advertising, how on earth could they consider it a crime to attempt a telephone call to the North's students for the fatherland's reunification that all fellow countrymen earnestly desire and could they impute an awful charge of violation of the National Security Law on him.

This act can be done only by those who pursue a permanent division of the country, not its reunification; and national confrontation, not its unity. In fact, the Kim Yong-sam ring has not abolished the fascist evil laws and suppressive organizations, such as the National Security Law and the Agency of National Security Planning, while talking about reform. They use them rather rashly to brutally oppress the South Korean people's struggle for independence, democracy, and reunification.

Their ignorant and cruel fascist oppression maneuver of considering it a crime to attempt to make a telephone call to youth and students in the northern half of the Republic and of punishing it shows that it is impossible for the South Korean youth, students, and people to enjoy their democratic freedom, to exercise their right to democracy, or even to discuss with fellow countrymen over the reunification issue while leaving the ring of civilian dictator Kim Yong-sam and the National Security Law, a vicious fascist evil law and anti-reunification law, as they are.

If the Kim Yong-sam fascist clique believes that they can break the people's will for reunification by oppressing the South Korean students' reunification movement, they are making a wrong assumption.

The fatherland's reunification is the national task that cannot be delayed any further and the South Korean people's struggle for it is intensified more than ever.

The Kim Yong-sam ring should look straight at the development of the situation in South Korea, act discreetly, and resign from power immediately.

ROK Efforts To Fight Crime Denounced

*SK1701120994 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1156 GMT 15 Jan 94*

[Commentary by Chong Pong-kil: "Fascist Oppressive Maneuvers Under the Pretext of Eliminating Crime"]

[Text] According to a radio report from Seoul, the puppet police on 13 January held an expanded meeting attended by chiefs of the crime prevention sections of police offices in cities and provinces throughout South Korea and formulated a so-called detailed plan to prevent crimes in connection with the second 180-day cleanup operation.

On 12 January, the puppet Ministry of Home Affairs set the period from 12 January to 11 July as the second planning period to ensure the stabilization of public welfare and ordered the police offices in cities and provinces throughout South Korea to keep intensive control over violent crimes.

During the 13 January meeting, the puppet police decided to maintain an emergency duty system by mobilizing 65 percent of police forces and, at the same time, decided to crack down on crime by conducting surprise operations once every three or five days, thus babbling about the so-called perfect crime prevention system.

Also, they have decided to arrest criminals by establishing a special task force against four major crimes, such as organized violent groups and robbers, and to take strong steps against commanding officers in charge of areas where violent crimes take place frequently by removing them from their posts, thus applying the regional responsibility system.

South Korea seems to have taken steps to root out crimes, but, actually, it intends to suppress more brutally the just struggles of South Korean youth, students, and people who aspire for independence, democracy, and reunification under the pretext of rooting out crime. This has been clearly proven in the 180-day operation to root out crime, which the puppet Kim Yong-sam clique started last year after he took office.

The Kim Yong-sam clique set the period from 1 April to September 1993 as the 180-day operation period to cleanup crime and oppress the people, thus loudly talking about the operation as if it would remove crime from South Korea.

The rate of crime has not decreased, but rather further increased. Also, more vicious methods have been employed in crime.

The South Korean paper TONG-A ILBO reported some time ago that murder, rape, robbery with violence, violence, and theft, which are called the five major crimes in South Korea, are being committed every 125 seconds; fraud, which is called an economic crime, every 296 seconds; embezzlement, every 18 minutes and 36 seconds; and traffic crime every 64 seconds. It also reported that robbery and rape cases in South Korea have increased by 500 times over the past ten years, which is a world record.

Despite the Kim Yong-sam ring's raving about crime eradication operations, the crime rate has been rising continuously in South Korea because they used their suppressive force to suppress the people's struggle for independence, democracy, and reunification under the pretext of such operations.

Last year as well, the Kim Yong-sam ring mobilized all their suppressive force to suppress the South Korean people's just struggle—such as the struggle calling for the clarification of the truth of the Kwangju massacre and the punishment of its main culprits, which was waged on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the Kwangju popular uprising, and the meeting to launch the Korean Federation of University Student Councils and the struggle to realize the 12 June North-South student talks in Panmunjom. On 20 July, the Kim Yong-sam ring even exercised the right of emergency coordination, which the preceding dictators dared not mobilize, and brutally suppressed the labor dispute of the Hyundai Motor Company workers.

Thus, the Kim Yong-sam ring did not use the police force to crack down on crime, but mobilized it to suppress the people's just struggle, thus allowing a steady increase of crime in South Korea. The crime eradication they rave about is after all an excuse to suppress the South Korean people's just struggle. The Kim Yong-sam ring has been conducting a 180-day campaign for the eradication of crime since early this new year in an attempt to block the South Korean people's intensifying struggle for the country's reunification and to suppress

the South Korean students' antigovernment struggle, which will be stepped up this spring.

Through the Kim Yong-sam ring's fascist terrorist rule for nearly one year, the South Korean people have become aware that as long as the ring remains in power, it is impossible to realize the country's reunification or the democratization and independence of South Korean society. They, therefore, are launching themselves into the antigovernment struggle against the ring. In particular, the traitorous act of the traitor Kim Yong-sam, who opened up the rice market, breaking his promise not to open up the rice market under any circumstances, is causing surging indignation among the South Korean people.

At the same time, it is expected that the South Korean students and people will further step up their antigovernment struggle on the anniversaries of the April popular uprising and the Kwangju popular uprising. Hence, the Kim Yong-sam ring set aside the period from 12 January to 11 July as a 180-day crime eradication campaign period and is frantically engaged in fascist suppression of the people.

However, fascist suppression cannot be a measure for their survival. Rather, it will hasten their own ruin. The Kim Yong-sam ring, which claimed to be a civilian regime, is walking along the way of fascist suppression in open cooperation with his predecessor military fascist dictators. This is a last-ditch effort of one who is destined to meet with his doomed end. The Kim Yong-sam ring should squarely see the developments in South Korea, act with discretion, and step down from power without delay as demanded by the people.

Paper Criticizes ROK 'Military Dictatorship'

SK1801103594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1020 GMT 18 Jan 94

[**"Civilian' Regime Not Different From Successive Military Dictatorial Regimes"**—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, January 18 (KCNA)—The Kim Yong-sam regime which was born of the military dictatorship of the "Sixth Republic" under the "civilian" veil in February last year has loudly trumpeted about "changes" and "reforms" for nearly one year. But it is not different at all from the successive military dictatorial regimes.

NODONG SINMUN says this in an article today.

The author of the article goes on:

The Kim Yong-sam group has committed crimes, selling off the national dignity and interests further to outside forces, far from defending the dignity of the nation and exercising its sovereignty.

The traitor Kim Yong-sam allowed the United States to freely use the South Korean port facilities "in case of emergency" under the "war time host nation support

agreement" and he let the U.S. Seventh Airforce use most of the U.S. Airforce setups which had been to be returned to South Korea.

It is the Kim Yong-sam group that begged for a permanent presence of the U.S. Forces in South Korea, at the "summit talks" and "annual Security Consultative Meeting" with the U.S. master [as received] flatteringly promising to the U.S. master to increase the annual burden share of South Korea for the maintenance of the U.S. Forces to more than three billion dollars, and got the U.S. troop cutback shelved. And it is again the Kim Yong-sam traitor clique which totally opened the South Korean rice market to the United States at the expense of the farmers. The Kim Yong-sam clique renounced the claim for the liquidation of the colonial past by the Japanese imperialists and their compensation to the "comfort women for the Army" and unilaterally declared economic opening to Japan, thus flinging open the door to the Japanese reactionaries who are pushing forward a military power building and nuclear armament and seeking overseas expansion.

The Kim Yong-sam group has trampled upon the desire of the people for democracy with the bayonet, maintaining the anti-democratic fascist dictatorial system. Leaving intact the "National Security Law", an anti-democratic fascist law, the abolition of which is demanded so strongly by the people and keeping such repressive tools as the "Security Planning Board" and the "secret affairs command", it is totally blocking the movement of popular masses of all walks of life with the "new security-oriented rule" which puts the "security-oriented rule" of the "Sixth Republic" military dictatorship into the shade.

The Kim Yong-sam group claims that the "Democratic Liberal Party", as the ruling party, is leading "changes and reforms" in the van. But it is a small group of privileged men propping up the colonial fascist dictatorship in South Korea.

"Civilian" fascist dictatorship little different from the successive military dictatorship has been established in South Korea today.

In the "unification policy" the Kim Yong-sam group, just as the successive military dictators did, is trampling underfoot the desire of the people for reunification and pursuing North-South confrontation, not national unity.

Turning down the magnanimous proposals of the North, it completely stopped the dialogues and cooperation between authorities of the North and the South, which had been kept going even under the dictatorship of the "Fifth Republic" and "Sixth Republic," under the pretext of "suspicion of nuclear development by the North". Moreover it committed crimes against reunification by blocking at the point of the bayonet North-South student talks and the fourth pan-national rally in Seoul, which were being promoted at the civilian level. It has frequently staged large military exercises against the North

in league with foreign forces and is leading the North-South relations to the dangerous brink of war under the pretext of the "nuclear issue" of the North, crying for "a military countermove" and "an international cooperation system".

As a result, after Kim Yong-sam the traitor took office, the national independence has been further violated, with the humiliating policy of depending on outside forces stepped up, and the democratic civil rights of the people have been stamped out, with "civilian" fascistization stepped up, and the desire of the people for reunification has been trampled upon with the intensification of North-South confrontation.

The traitor Kim Yong-sam must act with discretion, clearly knowing that it is not a means of prolonging his days to resort to fascist repression and treacheries under the false "civilian" slogan.

South Korea's 'Ceaseless War Exercises' Denounced

SK1501084194 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0825 GMT 14 Jan 94

[Unattributed talk: "Warmongers Who Are Only Pursuing Confrontation and War"]

[Text] The puppet Kim Yong-sam clique, which had noisily said it would practice civilian politics, ceaselessly have been playing with fire against fellow countrymen with outside forces last year, challenging peace and [word indistinct], thus pushing the situation of the Korean peninsula onto the brink of war.

The resumption of the Team Spirit nuclear fire game, which is known as the largest-scale joint military exercise in the world, was followed by various war exercises in South Korea named Ssangyong, Ulchi, Ulchi Focus Lens, Hwarang, and Eagle. This turned South Korea into a virtual land of gunsmoke, where the roar of guns and smell of gunpowder were ceaseless last year.

Under the pretext of the North's nuclear threat, the warmongers with war frenzy did not hesitate to even have the wild outburst of virtual declaration of war by saying that they were prepared to take military countermeasures.

Traitor Kim Yong-sam, who had been proud of being in civilian clothes, unlike the preceding military dictators, visited frontline troops at the end of last year, wearing combat attire of the puppet Army, and bolstered the war mood of northward invasion. This enables everyone to easily guess the level of the civilian warmongers' war mania.

The puppet Kim Yong-sam clique has extremely aggravated North-South relations and pushed the situation of the Korean peninsula onto the brink of war by conducting adventurous war disturbances with outside forces, ignoring the fellow countrymen's peace proposal

for achieving national reconciliation and unity. This is an intolerable, antinational crime.

The puppet Kim Yong-sam clique's indiscreet playing with fire aimed at invoking a fratricidal war did not bring them good results. The appearance of those who were mobilized to war disturbances staged by the civilian warmonger was pitiful.

A helicopter of the puppet Naval Command of Operations crashed in Kumsu-myon, Songju County, North Kyongsang Province last year, and some 10 puppet soldiers died in vain in this accident.

Another tragedy occurred in Chungwon County, North Chungchong Province. An F16 fighter plane of the puppet Air Force exploded in mid-air during a war disturbance and fell on a mountain in the county.

The destiny of those who were frantically engaged in a provocation against fellow countrymen in the air faced a disastrous end. This reminds us of the maxim that those who show mercy to others shall enjoy mercy from others.

According to the material presented by the South Korean puppet Defense Ministry to the National Assembly last year, many puppet soldiers died during war exercises against the North. Many soldiers died during the merciless and harsh disciplinary training in the South Korean puppet military or committed suicide, unable to endure any longer their lives of employed soldiers.

South Korea's Chungang University gazette carried an editorial, which pointed out that the Team Spirit exercise is a U.S. war disturbance that has no relation to the national interest and that South Korea is in bad shape for willingly providing the United States with a place for it. The editorial also noted that the meaning of this exercise became clear under the situation, in which the right to control operations, a key element of sovereignty, has been handed over to the United States, and denounced the exercise of pointing guns at fellow countrymen, saying such a thing can never happen.

The South Korean people have branded the puppet Kim Yong-sam clique as a group of civilian warmongers. The puppet Kim Yong-sam clique has expressed its plan to continue the nuclear war disturbance this year, too.

It would be quite absurd, however, if the puppet Kim Yong-sam clique intends to gain something by staging fire games and lighting the fuse of war of northward invasion. The South Korean puppets should better act discreetly, being clearly aware that the nuclear war disturbance will only result in their own ruin.

South's Plans To Conduct 'War Exercise' Viewed

SK1901001094 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1307 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] According to a report, the South Korean hardliners toward the North and military warmongers have recently babbled that if the Team Spirit joint military

exercise is suspended this year, they will conduct other types of military exercises that can easily fill the vacuum.

The warmongers also said they would conduct a large-scale war exercise—a combination of Ulchi and Focus Lens exercises—in August, if the Team Spirit joint military exercise is suspended.

The puppet clique's remarks—which deteriorate North-South relations and aggravate tensions on the Korean peninsula—is a clear expression of their criminal attempt to stimulate the atmosphere of war instead of peace and to continue to embark upon the road of confrontation and war instead of conciliation and unity.

As is known, during the DPRK-U.S. contacts at the end of last year, the U.S. side officially expressed its willingness to suspend the Team Spirit joint military exercise in an effort to eliminate a nuclear threat to us. Therefore, we decided to allow the necessary inspections to guarantee the continuity of the basic safeguards [sunsu tambo]. As a result, we brought about a breakthrough for the progress of the talks.

At a time when there are positive prospects for the settlement of the nuclear issue, the South Korean puppets are viciously maneuvering to conduct a new joint military exercise by babbling about other kinds of military exercises. This is a shameless plot to apply, by any means, the brakes on the progress in the DPRK-U.S. talks and to create a new grave obstacle to the settlement of the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula.

This shows that the puppets actually do not want the fundamental settlement of the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula even if they talk about denuclearization and preconditions, and that they only pursue division and confrontation.

With the beginning of the new year, the South Korean puppets are showing their intention to pursue arms confrontation, while talking about the assumption of the combatant posture and the immediate countermeasure posture. Also, the fact that they are going to conduct a large-scale war exercise this time clearly shows such intention.

If another large-scale joint military exercise is conducted again in South Korea instead of the Team Spirit joint military exercise, this means, indeed, that they would continue to conduct the Team Spirit joint military exercise. Even if the large-scale joint military exercise had another name, it would be, in essence, similar to the Team Spirit joint military exercise. Therefore, if they continue the joint military exercise like the Team Spirit exercise, the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula will neither be resolved nor the relaxation of tension and peace be achieved. Also, they will create more dangerous war situations on the Korean peninsula.

We are ready for either dialogue or war. If the puppet clique provokes a reckless war, we will resolutely counter fire with fire [purun pullo tasurilkkosimnida]. The South

Korean puppets must be clearly aware that aggravating tensions on the Korean peninsula, turning them into an acute situation of confrontation, will only bring destruction to them. They must not act recklessly.

Alternative Exercises 'Obstacle' to N-S Ties

*SK1901044494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432
GMT 19 Jan 94*

["Warlikers' Moves for Division and Confrontation"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, January 19 (KCNA)—The "hard-liners toward the North" and warmaniacs of the military of South Korea have reportedly blared these days that "another form of drill could be enlarged to fill the gap without difficulty, if the 'Team Spirit' joint military exercises were suspended this year."

They also prattled that they would stage in August this year a large-scale war game by integrating two military drills codenamed "Ulchi" and "Focus Lens", in case the "Team Spirit" was suspended.

Those remarks worsening the North-South relations and carrying the situation of the Korean peninsula to the extreme pitch of strain are an open manifestation of their criminal intention to continue to run headlong towards confrontation and war, not reconciliation and unity, inciting an atmosphere of war, not of peace.

The South Korean puppets are making desperate efforts to stage another joint war game, crying for "expansion of another form of drill", at a time when a positive prospect is in sight for the solution of the nuclear problem between the DPRK and the United States. This is a sinister move to block the progress of DPRK-U.S. talks at any cost and lay another grave obstacle in the way of the solution of the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula.

If another large-scale joint military drill were staged in South Korea to replace the suspended "Team Spirit" it would mean, as a matter of fact, its continuation.

Should they stage another joint military drill which would be equal to the "Team Spirit" in essence, though different in codename, the nuclear problem could never be solved on the Korean peninsula nor detente and peace be expected but a more dangerous situation of potential war would prevail.

We are ready both for dialogue and for a war. If the puppet clique recklessly provoked a war, we would determinedly control them with fire.

The South Korean puppets must not act rashly, mindful that their leading the situation of the peninsula to a phase of confrontation will only result in their own destruction.

Document, Spectrum Analyzer Export Link Viewed*SK1901102994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008 GMT 19 Jan 94*

["Duet of Anti-Communist Conspirators"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, January 19 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today accuses the South Korean puppets and the Japanese reactionaries of connecting "missing of military secret document" and "export of a spectrum analyzer" with the DPRK in a far-fetched way.

It was reported in South Korea January 14 that the secret affairs command of the puppet Army launched an investigation, "assuming that the recently lost military secret document might be handed over to the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon)." On the same day, reports provoking the DPRK and Chongnyon were set afloat in Japan, which said the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department was suspecting that a Kanagawa Prefecture-based trading company, specializing in deals with Pyongyang, exported a spectrum analyzer which can be converted to military use so that the DPRK may use it for missile development.

Commenting on this, an analyst of the paper says:

It is not an accidental coincidence that the South Korean puppets and the Japanese reactionaries launched a smear campaign against the DPRK and Chongnyon. It is another premeditated smear campaign they launched in conspiracy to spread a new rumour giving rise to an "international suspicion" against the DPRK and impair its image.

Although the South Korean puppets and the Japanese reactionaries talk about "possibility" and "suspicion," there is no ground to suspect the DPRK's involvement.

The South Korean puppets allege that a military secret document which was sent to Cho Sun-hwan, "national assemblyman" from the United People's Party, disappeared. The "assemblyman," however, said he did not know that such document was sent to him from the "Defence Ministry" and nobody told him to return the document. Nevertheless, the puppets say they have begun an investigation "on the premise that the document may be handed over to Chongnyon." How ridiculous they are.

The South Korean puppets and the Japanese reactionaries are trying to create a new "suspicion" against the DPRK in an attempt to attach "credibility" to their hitherto fuss over "nuclear threat" and "missile threat," bring their "danger" into bolder relief and put a new spoke in the wheel of the third round of DPRK-U.S. talks which is now on the order of the day.

Lurking behind their anti-communist campaign is also a sinister intention to impair the prestige of the dignified

DPRK in the international arena and stretch suppression to Chongnyon, a dependable bulwark of the overseas Koreans movement.

They had better refrain from rash acts.

Export Case 'Sheer Fabrication'*SK1901045794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439 GMT 19 Jan 94*

["'Spectrum Analyzer Export' Case, Sheer Fabrication"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, January 19 (KCNA)—The Japanese reactionaries are slinging mud at the DPRK over the faked case of "export of a spectrum analyzer".

They allege that the spectrum analyzer which a trading firm in Yokohama exported to the DPRK through a third country may be used for the development of a ballistic missile.

The Japan Defence Agency expressed "deep concern" over the case and the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department made a fuss, probing into "suspected" trading firms and manufacturers of telecommunication devices.

The so-called "export of a spectrum analyzer" is an utterly groundless fabrication against the DPRK.

It is impossible that the spectrum analyzer, which is used for the development of television and other telecommunication apparatus, was exported to the DPRK through a third country. Still more preposterous is the argument that the DPRK may use the device for the development of a ballistic missile.

The case faked up by the Japanese reactionaries is a product of their chronic habit of fabricating every possible case to slander the DPRK. It is a revised version and extension of the rumour about "hi-tech leakage" they had spread some time ago.

They had spread the rumour that their technology had been used for the "development of nuclear weapons" in the DPRK. As it turned out to be a false rumour, they have concocted the case of "export of a spectrum analyzer" this time.

Judging from the fact that the Japanese authorities fabricate such rumours and cases one after another, it is easy to guess that they in actuality do not intend to establish good-neighbourly relations with the DPRK, but, on the contrary, are intensifying the anti-DPRK campaign, although they call for "resumption of DPRK-Japan talks".

By inventing the case of "export of a spectrum analyzer," they foolishly seek to impair the image of the peace-loving DPRK and put "sanctions" and pressure on it through "an international cooperation system."

Unbiased public opinion is angered at the false case because lurking behind it is a criminal intention to step

up their military power buildup under a faked pretext, stage a comeback to Korea and, further, bring Asia under control.

The Japanese authorities must look straight at the trend of the times and immediately stop their futile anti-DPRK campaign.

PRC's Jiang Zemin Assures Hwang of Friendship

*SK1801050794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0452
GMT 18 Jan 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, January 18 (KCNA)—It is a firm stand of China to strengthen and develop the China-Korea friendship and no one can change it. China would, as always, do its utmost for the development of traditional ties between China and Korea and make tireless efforts toward the consolidation and development of the exchange and cooperation between the two countries in different domains.

Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and president of China, made the remarks in a meeting with Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and his entourage in Beijing Monday.

Noting that the ties between the two countries of China and Korea is different from that between other countries, he said the China-Korea friendship was tied with blood and founded and fostered by Comrades Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai together with Comrade Kim Il-song.

'World Public' Supports Kim Il-song's Speech

*SK1701215494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1505
GMT 17 Jan 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, January 17 (KCNA)—World public expressed full support to the New Year address of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Meetings supporting the New Year address took place in Moscow, Russia, and Peru and Denmark.

Yuri Vashin, a section chief of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences of Russia, in his speech at a meeting of representatives of Russian public circles said the New Year address of respected Comrade Kim Il-song, president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, gives scientific and philosophical conclusions to all questions and clarifies the principled stand of Korea.

Noting that the "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country" put forward by respected Comrade Kim Il-song clarifies the idea of achieving Korea's reunification, the greatest national desire of the Korean people, in a peaceful way on the basis of the confederacy formula, he said there is no other alternative but this.

Vasim Rozanov, chief secretary of the Graduates Federation of Moscow State University of International Affairs said he fully supports the policy of peaceful reunification of the country and all principles of external policy set forth by Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year address.

Victor Platov, vice-chairman of the Central Council of the Russian Association of Friendship and Cultural Cooperation with the DPRK, charged that the United States has not yet withdrawn its nuclear weapons from South Korea. The association will thoroughly expose the aggressive design of the United States and fully support the socialist construction line of the Korean Government, he said.

Jorge Raso Arrasco, chairman of the Peruvian National Association for the Study of the Chuche Idea, speaking at a meeting held in Peru, held that the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula must be settled through DPRK-U.S. talks on the principle of impartiality.

Anders Kristensen, chairman of the Denmark-DPRK Friendship Association, in his speech at a joint meeting held in Denmark, stressed the need to more actively conduct movements for solidarity with the Korean people.

Kim Il-song Receives Foreign Leader Greetings

*SK1801072594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0433
GMT 18 Jan 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, January 18 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, exchanged New Year's cards with heads of state and party leaders of different countries.

He exchanged new year's cards with Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and premier of the government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic; Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, president of the Republic of Maldives; President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia of the People's Republic of Bangladesh; Gingiri Banda Wijetunga, president of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka; Benazir Bhutto, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Republic of Tunisia; Lansana Conte, president and head of state of the Republic of Guinea; Joao Bernardo Vieira, president of the State Council of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau; President Cassam Uteem and Prime Minister Aneerood Jugnauth of the Republic of Mauritius; Q.K.J. Masire, president of the Republic of Botswana; Ali Hassan Mwinyi, president of the United Republic of Tanzania; Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, president of the Republic of Angola; Cheddi Bharrat Jagan, president of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana; Crispin Anseim Sorhaindo, president of the Commonwealth of Dominica; Kiro Gligorov, president of the Republic of Macedonia;

Zhelyu Zhelev, president of the Republic of Bulgaria; Michal Kovac, president of the Slovak Republic; Nursultan A. Nazarbayev, president of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Mario Soares, president of the Portuguese Republic; Levon Ter-Petrosyan, president of the Republic of Armenia; Islam A. Karimov, president of the Uzbek Republic; and Vigdis Finnbogadottir, president of the Republic of Iceland.

The great leader President Kim Il-song also exchanged New Year's cards with Do Muoi, general secretary of the C.C., the Communist Party of Vietnam; A.F.M. Mahbubul Huq, convenor of the C.C., the Socialist Party of Bangladesh; Social-Democratic member of the House of Representatives Makoto Tanabe, former chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the JSDP and vice-chairman of the Socialist International; Abdallah Al Chahal, secretary of the regional leadership of the Arab Socialist Baath Party of Lebanon; Inaam Raad, chairman of the Nationalist Socialist Party of Syria in Lebanon; Mohamed Harmel, secretary general of the renewal movement of Tunisia; Jacob Zayadine, general secretary of the C.C., Jordanian Communist Party; National Chairman Roland Atta-Kesson and general Secretary Alhaji A.B. Ziblim of the National Convention Party of Ghana; Huudu Yahaya, general secretary of the National Democratic Congress of Ghana; Blanca Rojas Echaverry, general secretary of the Central American United Party of Nicaragua; Miguel Mejia, secretary general of the United Left Movement of Dominica; Boris Petkov, chairman of the Executive Council of the C.C., the Bulgarian Communist Party (Marxists); Miroslav Grevenicek, chairman of the C.C., the Czech-Morava Communist Party; Timo Lahdenmaki, chairman of the for Peace and Socialism-the Communist Workers' Party of Finland; chairman of the National Council Alvaro Cunhal and secretary-general of the Central Committee Carlos Carvalhas of the Communist Party of Portugal; Blasco Hugo Fernandes, chairman of the National Direction Committee of the Democratic Intervention of Portugal; Julio Anguita, general secretary of the Spanish Communist Party; and Juan Ramos, general secretary of the Communist Party of the Peoples of Spain.

He received New Year cards from H. Kamuzu Banda, president of the Republic of Malawi; Nicholas Brathwaite, prime minister of Grenada; Mary Eugenia Charles, prime minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica; Erskine Sandiford, prime minister of Barbados; Kennedy Simmonds, prime minister of the St. Kitts-Nevis; Vere Cornwall Bird, prime minister of Antigua and Barbuda; Dilip Barua, general secretary of the C.C., the Communist Party of Bangladesh (Marxist-Leninist); Ali Hassan, general secretary of the Supreme Council of the Nationalist Socialist Party of Syria in Lebanon; Talal Hafun Ala Mai, general secretary of the People's Unity Party (Unionist) of Jordan; and Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party of the United States of America.

Kim Chong-il Exchanges Cards With Foreign Leaders

SK1901051494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0421 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Pyongyang, January 19 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il exchanged New Year's cards with state and party leaders of different countries.

He exchanged cards with Khamtai Siphandon, premier of the Lao Government; Benazir Bhutto, prime minister of Pakistan; Lansana Conte, president and head of state of Guinea; Valentine Esegbo Melvin Strasser, head of state and chairman of the National Provisional Ruling Council of Sierra Leone; Robert G. Mugabe, president of Zimbabwe; Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, president of Egypt; A.F.M. Mahbubul Huq, convenor of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Socialist Party of Bangladesh; Social-Democratic member of the House of Representatives of Japan Makoto Tanabe, former chairman of the JSDP Central Executive Committee and vice-chairman of the Socialist International; Farouk Dahrouj, general secretary of the C.C., the Lebanese Communist Party; Walid Joumblatt, president of the Socialist Progressive Party of Lebanon; Abdallah Al Chahal, secretary of the regional leadership of the Arab Socialist Baath Party of Lebanon; Inaam Raad, chairman of the Nationalist Socialist Party of Syria in Lebanon; Ali Hassan, general secretary of the Supreme Council of the Nationalist Socialist Party of Syria in Lebanon; Jacob Zayadine, general secretary of the C.C., the Jordanian Communist Party; Talal Hafun Ala Mai, general secretary of the People's Unity Party (Unionist) of Jordan; National Chairman Roland Atta-Kesson and General Secretary Alhaji A.B. Ziblim of the National Convention Party of Ghana; Huudu Yahaya, general secretary of the National Democratic Congress of Ghana; Moukoueke Cristophe, general secretary of the Pan-African Union for the Social Democracy of the Congo; Eriya Kategaya, national political commissar of the National Resistance Movement and first vice-prime minister of Uganda; Boris Petkov, chairman of the Executive Council of the C.C., the Bulgarian Communist Party (Marxists); Timo Lahdenmaki, chairman of the for Peace and Socialism-the Communist Workers' Party of Finland; Alvaro Cunhal, chairman of the National Council of the Communist Party of Portugal; Blasco Hugo Fernandes, chairman of the National Direction Committee of the Democratic Intervention of Portugal; and Juan Ramos, general secretary of the Communist Party of the Peoples of Spain.

He also received New Year's cards from Dilip Barua, general secretary of the C.C., the Communist Party of Bangladesh (Marxist-Leninist); Miguel Mejia, secretary general of the United Left Movement of Dominica; Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party of the United States of America; and Miroslav Grevenicek, chairman of the C.C., the Czech-Morava Communist Party.

Yi Chong-ok at Meeting on Korean Alphabet

*SK1501045994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0416
GMT 15 Jan 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, January 15 (KCNA)—A Pyongyang meeting was held at the Grand People's Study House Friday to mark the 550th anniversary of the creation of Hunminjeongeum (Korean alphabet).

The meeting was attended by Yi Chong-ok, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and vice-president, Kim Chung-nin, secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK, and officials concerned.

The Korean alphabet created on the basis of the Sinji letters which had been used by Koreans for thousands of years was proclaimed in 1444.

In his report at the meeting, Vice-premier of the Administration Council Chang Chol said the Korean alphabet is a set of national letters worthy of praise, which reflect the creative wisdom and resourcefulness of the Korean people, and a valuable asset and cultural heritage of the nation that holds a particular position in the development of written languages of the world.

Turning to the advantages of the Korean alphabet, Chang Chol said it is scientific theoretically and orderly in structure and system, it fully reflects the characteristics and richness of the sound and easy to learn and write.

"With the creation of the Korean alphabet, the Korean people came to have a means of writing suited to the national characteristics of the mother tongue and a powerful weapon in the cause of transforming nature and society," he said.

He recalled that during their occupation of Korea in the past, the Japanese imperialists forced the Koreans to change their names to Japanese style and speak and write in Japanese in everyday life in order to obliterate the Korean language and letters as well as the Korean nation.

"This was the most heinous crime never to be condoned and a beastly act without precedent in history," the reporter said.

"Under the wise guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, darkness and illiteracy were dispelled, the anti-popular system of writing demolished and a new system of writing based on national independence established, so the Korean people, who were far removed from modern civilization, have become the true masters and users of the written and spoken languages," he said. "The idea and guidance of the great leader to develop the national language on the basis of *chuche* and improve it are being successfully carried forward by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il today."

He said the treacherous acts of the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique to obliterate the mother tongue in league

with the U.S. imperialists can never be pardoned because they are aimed at keeping the Korean nation divided into two forever.

"In order to smash the moves to obliterate the national language on the part of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges in South Korea, all the Koreans who love the country and the nation must rise as one in the struggle to prevent a permanent division of the nation and achieve a unified development, be they in the North or in the South or overseas, be they communists or nationalists," stressed the reporter.

Meeting of Trade Union Propaganda Functionaries

*SK1901115194 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 2300 GMT 18 Jan 94*

[Text] The national meeting of trade union propaganda functionaries was held at the Central Workers' Hall on 18 January.

Present at the meeting were functionaries concerned and exemplary trade union propaganda functionaries from all over the country.

The meeting discussed the tasks of trade union propaganda functionaries to further strengthen the entire trade unions' single-hearted unity around the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Chu Song-il, chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Union of Korea made a report, then many participants joined discussions.

The reporter and those who participated in the discussions said that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's teaching on accomplishment of the *chuche* revolutionary cause by rallying around the dear comrade leader as one mind is an immortal banner and programmatic teaching that elucidated the road for succeeding and consummating the socialist cause. They then pointed out that the trade union organizations have achieved success in uniting trade union members closely around the party by vigorously waging ideological indoctrination work. They noted that the trade union organizations at all levels and propaganda functionaries have carried out the indoctrination work to encourage trade union members to realize the dear comrade leader's greatness through various forms and methods and in a substantial manner.

They pointed out that all propaganda functionaries have made more than 100 volumes of educational materials in order to use them for propagandizing the greatness and in particular, substantively carried out indoctrination work through the song "Praising the Bright Star" composed by the great leader [suryong], thus contributing to fostering trade union members to be loyalists and dutiful children.

They said that by enhancing the role of trade union lecturers and by organizing economic agitation teams composed by the lecturers, they strengthened economic

propaganda agitation work in major plants and enterprises, including Musan, Komdok, and Kim Chaek, and in major socialist construction sites. Thus, they actively inspired the working class and trade union members to implement the party's economic strategy. They stressed that with strengthened ideological indoctrination work in the trade unions, the lofty communist fine custom of rendering loyalty to the party and the leader and of dedicating everything to society, groups, and revolutionary comrades, has bloomed constantly among union members, and that a new turn was effected in their ideological and spiritual traits and work style.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: The main duty of workers' organizations is to indoctrinate and reform a broad range of masses and to make them firmly rally behind the party, and to vigorously organize and mobilize them into revolutionary struggle and construction workers.

The reporter and those who participated in the discussions said that the trade unions and propaganda functionaries at all levels are faced with a honorable task to further consolidate the single-hearted unity of our revolutionary ranks with the dear comrade leader as their center by strengthening ideological indoctrination work for union members and to actively contribute to the accomplishment of the socialist cause to the end by following his leadership.

Stressing that all trade union members should uphold, defend, and protect our party by cherishing revolutionary faith and will, they emphatically said that the indoctrination work should be vigorously carried out in order to make union members realize the greatness in ideology and theory of dear comrade leader, the greatness of his leadership, and greatness of his traits.

They emphasized that all union members should deeply study immortal works of dear comrade leader, including a collection of Kim Chong-il works, and that propaganda of art should be deepened among them in various methods and based on revolutionary songs, including "Without You, There Is No Fatherland," and "Only If There Is You, We Will Win," in compliance with concrete circumstances and character so that they trust and follow only the party by cherishing a sense of adoration.

They stressed that the revolutionary trait of loyally upholding the party's leadership should be established so that all trade unions implement the party's line and policy unconditionally and thoroughly. They spoke on the strengthening of political work to actively inspire union members to implement the three revolutions—ideological, technological and cultural—the general line of the socialist construction.

They stressed the strengthening of political propaganda and economic agitation to brilliantly implement the great leader's new year speech this year and decisions of the 21st plenary session of the Sixth Party Central Committee. They said that they should actively carry out

propaganda work to better help rural communities materially and technically and with manpower in this significant year marking the 30th anniversary of publication of the rural thesis. They stressed that new innovations should be registered in production of light industry commodities and export goods.

The reporter and those participating in the discussions said that the workers' organizations, upholding the party's intention to satisfactorily implement the work of remaking people, will meet the party's trust and expectations by effecting a new turn in the work of ideological indoctrination work of trade unions.

A letter of pledge to Comrade Kim Chong-il, the dear leader of our party and people, was adopted during the meeting.

Daily on 'Revolutionary Spirit of Mt. Paektu'

*SK1501112894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1033
GMT 15 Jan 94*

["Revolutionary Spirit of Mt. Paektu Is Firm Guarantee of Accomplishing Revolutionary Cause of Chuche"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, January 15 (KCNA)—The revolutionary spirit of Mt. Paektu was created in the days of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle waged under the wise guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song. It is a spirit of unfailing loyalty to the leader, a revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle to tide over difficulties by one's own effort and an indomitable revolutionary spirit of rising again and fighting even if one might fall a thousand and one times. NODONG SINMUN says this in an article today.

The article says:

The revolutionary spirit of Mt. Paektu underlies the tremendous force that made it possible to defeat the Japanese and the U.S. imperialists in the past and build a socialist power of independence, self-sustenance and self-reliance in defence on this land. Now it serves as an invincible ideological and moral weapon for the Korean people who are carrying the Korean-style socialist cause through to accomplishment.

It is, above all, an eternal life-giving water that helps the entire Korean people hold in high esteem the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il with unfailing loyalty.

It contains the revolutionary attitude toward the leader and view of life that should be acquired by the chuche-type revolutionaries faithful to the party and the leader.

When we actively learn from the spirit, we can all become true revolutionaries like anti-Japanese revolutionary forerunners who staunchly fought with one mind of loyalty to the leader in any circumstances.

The revolutionary spirit of Mt. Paektu also powerfully encourages the Korean people to glorify the Korean-style socialism holding aloft the revolutionary banner of self-reliance and hard struggle.

The anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle was an arduous revolutionary war fought against the Japanese imperialists armed to the teeth in reliance on one's own strength with neither a state support nor foreign assistance.

The anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters always pulled through difficulties by displaying highly the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle in their struggle full of trials, and fully displayed the revolutionary habit of unconditionally carrying out any difficult and hard revolutionary tasks by their own effort.

The revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle displayed highly in those days has now become a powerful ideological and moral source for the Korean people in thoroughly implementing the party's revolutionary economic strategy and successfully building the Korean-style socialism.

Self-reliance is the only way to smash the imperialists' economic blockade and effect a steady upsurge in socialist economic construction.

There will be no tasks we cannot carry out, or no fortress we cannot occupy when we continue to actively follow the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle displayed by the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters.

The revolutionary spirit of Mt. Paektu is the ideological and moral source of the strength that enables the Korean people to staunchly go along the road of revolution with an indomitable fighting spirit and strong will.

South Korea

Inspection 'Must' Precede DPRK-U.S. Talks

*SK1801133294 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean
1305 GMT 18 Jan 94*

[Text] ROK Nuclear Ambassador Kim Sam-hun has said the ROK and the United States made it clear that the third-round talks between the United States and North Korea would not take place unless the International Atomic Energy Agency's [IAEA] ordinary inspection [tongsang sachal] and North-South dialogue take place.

He returned home on 18 January after consultations with the U.S. Government on nuclear policies.

He also said the U.S. Government stressed that the nuclear inspection of North Korea must take place to an extent sufficient enough to satisfy the IAEA.

IAEA-DPRK Talks Developments Reported

IAEA Spokesman Meyer Comments

*SK1401232694 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean
2215 GMT 14 Jan 94*

[By Cha Man-sun from Vienna]

[Text] According to Hans Meyer, spokesman for the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], it seems that the next working-level contact between North Korea and the IAEA for negotiations on nuclear inspection will be delayed until next week.

Spokesman Meyer said that he had expected there would be a contact between the two sides this week for follow-up negotiations on the IAEA checklist that was delivered to North Korea on 9 January [as heard] for inspection of the seven reported nuclear facilities [haek sisol], and that now it seems that the next contact will be delayed until next week because there has been no response from North Korea as of the evening of 14 January.

Regarding this, an IAEA source analyzed that the delay of the next contact may be considered a North Korean negotiation strategy, but he also pointed out the possibility that North Korea is taking pains in reviewing the details of the IAEA demand and deciding how to respond to it because of the large gap between the IAEA and North Korean positions on the nuclear inspection issue.

Working-Level Contact 'Stalemate'

*SK1701232994 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean
2213 GMT 17 Jan 94*

[By Cha Man-sun from Vienna]

[Text] A third round of working-level contacts between the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and North Korea ended in a stalemate due to the two sides' differences in their basic position over general inspections [chonmyon sachal] of seven nuclear facilities in North Korea.

The IAEA and North Korea, at the third round of contacts held yesterday afternoon, discussed for three hours the issue of resuming inspections by reviewing Pyongyang's response to the IAEA demands. However, they failed to reach a consensus.

The IAEA, after having reviewed the North Korean authorities' response with the North Korean delegates, disclosed that North Korea had not signaled any green light to the IAEA demands, hinting that Pyongyang's response was a negative one.

Third-Round Contacts Begin 17 Jan

*SK1701104294 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean
1015 GMT 17 Jan 94*

[Report by Cha Man-sun from Vienna]

[Text] The International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and North Korea began the third round of working-level contacts for negotiations on the resumption of inspections of the seven nuclear facilities [haek siso] at 1800 [0900 GMT] on 17 January, and are now discussing the point at issue between the two sides.

Yun Ho-chin, chief North Korean delegate, who is counselor of the North Korean Embassy in Vienna, delivered Pyongyang's response to IAEA Inspection Director (Felicose), and is now holding negotiations on practical questions [silmu munje] for the resumption of nuclear inspections.

DPRK Conveys Position in Detail

*SK1801021294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0151 GMT
18 Jan 94*

[Text] Vienna, Jan. 17 (YONHAP)—North Korea and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) failed to make any progress Monday in their third working-level contact on the resumption of nuclear inspections, but the IAEA said there would be another contact soon.

Pyongyang did not give the IAEA a green light to resume inspection of its declared nuclear sites, agency spokesman Hans Meyer said.

In the three-hour contact at IAEA headquarters, the North Koreans conveyed their position and opinions in detail on IAEA inspection while IAEA officials explained details of the demands for inspection, he said, but did not make any further comment.

The IAEA team was led by operations director Demetrius Pericos and three diplomats from the North Korean Embassy in Vienna were headed by Yun Ho-chin, a councilor.

"I made the proposal enough to secure the continuity of nuclear safeguards," Yun said after the contact. "Next time, it's the IAEA's turn to answer, and the consultations will continue."

He declined, however, to comment on whether Pyongyang will allow inspection of its radiochemical laboratory and a 5-megawatt reactor.

"You will get the information little by little," he said.

The North Koreans rejected the IAEA's demand for extraction of samples from the radiochemical laboratory and reactor while the IAEA people demanded that Pyongyang allow full-fledged inspection according to nuclear safeguards regulations, an IAEA source said. North Korea answered the requirements set by the IAEA at the second contact, Dec. 10, and the discussion focused on narrowing differences.

IAEA Official, DPRK Councilor Meet

*SK1901025694 Seoul YONHAP in English 0241 GMT
19 Jan 94*

[Text] Vienna, Jan. 18 (YONHAP)—North Korea and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) are expected to hold a fourth round of negotiations on IAEA inspection of North Korean nuclear facilities on Wednesday, informed sources said Tuesday.

Following a third round of working-level contacts Monday, IAEA Operations Director Demetrius Pericos and Yun Ho-jin, a councilor at the North Korean Embassy, met unofficially Tuesday and agreed to hold a fourth round on Wednesday, the sources said.

The successive meetings could mean that the negotiations are making rapid progress, IAEA sources said, hinting that there could be early inspections.

As a result, they said, the two sides could reach an agreement this week and the IAEA could start inspecting North Korean facilities by Jan. 24 at the earliest.

Or the two sides could work out some sort of agreement early next week so that an IAEA inspection team could enter North Korea by Jan. 31, the sources said.

This optimistic view comes after an official IAEA evaluation that there was "no green signal" in the third round, but the sources described the atmosphere of the talks as good and said that the two sides managed to narrow their differences.

One IAEA source, who like the others declined to be identified, said that both the IAEA and North Korea shared the opinion that an IAEA inspection, in whatever the form, has to be carried out before the IAEA holds its regular board of governors meeting on Feb. 21.

In other words, an IAEA inspection team has to go into North Korea in late January or early February in order for the IAEA to submit a report to the Board of Governors for it will take at least two weeks to inspect facilities and another week to prepare the report, the source said.

The IAEA Secretariat, which is giving "political significance" to the February board meeting because it is the start of a new fiscal year for the IAEA, wants to get tangible evidence to show in the negotiations with North Korea, which have been dragging along for more than a year now, the source said.

The Secretariat also likes to reach a kind of interim point with North Korea on inspection "in consideration" of the United States, which has publicly announced its agreement with North Korea.

As for North Korea, the IAEA could expect some sort of "concession" from Pyongyang because North Korea, too, has to demonstrate a positive attitude toward IAEA inspection in order to keep its negotiations with the United States going, the source said.

Details of the perceived progress being made at IAEA-North Korean negotiations are not known.

But what is known so far appears to be that the two sides have agreed in principle on the need for inspections on seven reported facilities, including the radiochemical laboratory and the 5-megawatt reactor, the source said.

As for differences of opinion on thorny issues such as the IAEA request for the collection of materials from the facilities, the two sides could discuss them so that another inspection team could be dispatched to North Korea later, the source said.

IAEA Presents 'Reply Document'

SK1901105794 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean
1000 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] At the fourth working-level contact held between the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and North Korea in Vienna this afternoon, the IAEA presented its official reply document to the letter from Pyongyang dated 17 January, and again urged North Korea to accept overall [chonmyon] inspections. Correspondent Cha Man-sun reports from Vienna.

[Begin Cha recording] This afternoon Korean time, the IAEA held the fourth round of working-level contact with the North Korean side and presented a document to North Korea in the form of a reply letter. This document presented the IAEA's position on points of dispute that were revealed on three occasions during working-level discussions.

The official document presented to the North Korean side by the IAEA is a reply to the reply letter of the Pyongyang authorities dated 17 January. It was learned that through this official document the IAEA stressed that it cannot accept limited [chehanjok] inspection, which the North Korean side insists on, and again strongly called on North Korea to accept overall inspections in compliance with the nuclear accord in order to recover promptly the continuity of inspections.

In particular, the IAEA clearly expressed its intention to conduct overall inspections—not only replacement of surveillance devices, but also extraction of nuclear materials—of the two sensitive nuclear facilities, including an atomic reactor and radiochemical laboratory in Yongbyon, over which the two sides show acute differences in views. Such a position by the IAEA was conveyed verbally many times to the North Korean side in the course of working-level contacts. At the request of the working-level delegate representing the Pyongyang authorities, the IAEA presented its position in the form of a document.

Meanwhile, an IAEA source said that the North Korean response to this document is a matter of interest, however, Pyongyang is expected to finally accept overall inspections because North Korea, in contact with the United States, agreed [yanghae] to accept inspections demanded by IAEA. [end recording]

'Atmosphere' of Talks Analyzed

SK1901072594 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 19
Jan 94 p 7

[Article by Vienna-based correspondent Han Ki-pong: "No Progress in the Third Round of the Contact Between North Korea-International Atomic Energy Agency"]

[Text] The atmosphere in Vienna, where the North Korean-IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] negotiations over nuclear inspections have been underway for three weeks, is considerably different from the optimistic view Washington and Seoul have had in early January. Even though the third round of the official working-level contact between North Korea and the IAEA side was held on 17 January, no "green light" was shown, as expressed by the IAEA side. It has been learned that, through steady contacts in New York at the end of last year, the United States and North Korea reached a series of agreements on resuming ad hoc [imsi] and ordinary [tongsang] inspections, on the announcement of the discontinuation of the Team Spirit, on resuming the working-level contact for exchanging the North-South special envoys, and on resuming the third round of North Korean-U.S. talks.

Accordingly, it was expected that the IAEA inspection team would be able to enter the North by mid or late January, at the latest, without any problems.

However, as soon as technical negotiations between North Korea and the IAEA started, North Korea began to behave as though it had forgotten the political agreement. Such an atmosphere makes us believe that the U.S.-North Korean agreement attaches more importance to the beginning of the IAEA-North Korean negotiations to conduct ad hoc [imsi] and ordinary [tongsang] inspections, than to the resumption of full-scale ad hoc and ordinary inspections.

Actually, it is believed at the IAEA that, because the Clinton administration wants to have a diplomatic success, it might make "an early announcement."

The subjects of the three rounds of the official North Korean-IAEA negotiations have been: sounding out mutual positions (on 7 January), delivering the IAEA's technical demand conditions regarding inspections to North Korea (on 10 January), and delivering the North Korean side's position toward the IAEA's demand conditions (on 17 January).

The IAEA side has kept silent about the concrete contents of the negotiations. However, it has been learned that the great stumbling blocks to the negotiations are the scope of the inspections and technical issues. Among the seven nuclear facilities North Korea reported to the IAEA, North Korea has felt particularly nervous about the 5-MW Yongbyon experimental reactor, which is the most important one in clearing North Korea's nuclear suspicion; and a radiochemical laboratory, suspected to

be a reprocessing facility. North Korea has assumed the position that it can receive restricted inspections by just allowing the replacement and repair of the existing monitoring equipment. North Korea has claimed that this is enough to guarantee the continuity of the nuclear safeguards accord.

The IAEA holds that the ad hoc inspections are aimed at verifying the accuracy and integrity of the reported facilities, that there is no alternative but to conduct full-scale and unconditional inspections.

Along with this, it has been learned that the issue concerning the number of inspections has yet to be resolved.

Regardless of the level of the political agreement reached between the United States and North Korea, it is certain that North Korea is once again trying to buy time.

North Korea has come to avoid international sanctions by beginning negotiations with the IAEA. It seems that North Korea is employing a two-pronged policy to leave behind a "nuclear suspicion," at the most, during negotiations with the IAEA. This is the very strategy North Korea had employed for the past year. Whenever North Korea has been driven to a corner, it has used a hard-line strategy of worsening the situation and benefiting from it. For example, when North Korea was faced with the pressure of special inspections, it withdrew from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. It will be two years in April since the nuclear safeguards accord was effectuated. However, North Korea has refused to receive even the ad hoc inspection, which is the most basic stage of the inspection, not to mention special inspections. North Korea has diverted the people's focus of attention elsewhere so that they regard even the resumption of the ad hoc inspection as progress in the nuclear issue.

It seems as though North Korea this time thinks it can still buy time. The fourth round of the IAEA-North Korean negotiations may be held on 19 or 20 January. However, it is difficult to expect that North Korea will change its position at once.

North Korea will probably accept full-scale ad hoc inspections at a time when it believes that it can obtain the greatest benefit from the third round of the high-level talks with the United States.

It seems that North Korea has planned it can prevent the issue of special inspections from being a key point in the agenda at the third round of the high-level talks.

Internationalization of Nuclear Pact Viewed

SK1801092494 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 18 Jan 94 p 3

[Article by Kim Cha-su: "Turning the Joint Declaration of the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula Into an International Treaty"]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry feels nervous about minimizing the stir regarding the report that the United States is calling on the ROK to turn the Joint Declaration of the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula into an international treaty. It seems the Foreign Ministry is concerned about a breakup of the cooperative system with the United States, which may take place during the final stage of the U.S.-North Korean negotiations.

The Government's Position

The government opposes the U.S. proposal to turn the Joint Declaration of the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula into an international treaty. That is, the government contends that because the joint declaration of denuclearization signed in 1992 is not a treaty between countries but an agreement signed within the nation, the government does not need to turn it into an international treaty.

The government believes the issue of North Korea constantly keeping nuclear reprocessing facilities, even after adopting the joint declaration of denuclearization, should be resolved through North-South dialogue. In other words, the government believes that the government should persuade North Korea to destroy the nuclear reprocessing facilities through the Joint Nuclear Control Committee and, then, abide by the joint declaration of denuclearization.

A government official explained that "the U.S. proposal to turn the Joint Declaration of the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula into an international treaty is a result of considering North Korea's demand for a guarantee that a nuclear preemptive strike on the DPRK will not take place." That is, there is a possibility that because North Korea indeed regards as serious a nuclear threat from the United States and others, it may stick to nuclear development. Thus, in order to ease North Korea's threat, it is necessary for the nuclear-possessing countries to promise not to conduct a nuclear attack on North Korea.

Government officials have analyzed that the United States is intending to supplement the weak points of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) by turning the joint declaration of denuclearization into an international treaty. The current NPT regulations stipulate that NPT member countries can have nuclear reprocessing facilities and inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] are only required of the plutonium produced from the nuclear reprocessing process. Accordingly, if the joint declaration of denuclearization is turned into an international treaty, North and South Korea cannot have nuclear reprocessing facilities so suspicions of nuclear development on the Korean peninsula will be fully abolished. There was a (Tulatert) protocol signed by South American countries, including Brazil and Argentina, in 1967 in which the nuclear-possessing countries acknowledged the contents that had been agreed upon by the relevant countries.

At that time, when the South American countries resolved not to develop and possess nuclear weapons, they called on the nuclear-possessing countries, including the United States, to acknowledge the guarantee of refraining from a nuclear attack on them. Thus, the nuclear-possessing countries turned the agreement into an international treaty through a protocol.

It can be said that the United States has tried to apply this precedent to the Korean peninsula.

Reaction From the Academic World

Scholars generally oppose the U.S. proposal to turn the joint declaration of the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula into an international treaty.

Dr. Chon Song-hun from the Institute of National Unification said: "To turn the declaration of the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula into an international treaty, the nuclear issue of the Northeast Asian countries surrounding the Korean peninsula, including China and Japan, as well, should be discussed simultaneously."

Dr. Chon stressed that "either the whole Northeast Asia area should be denuclearized or nuclear-possessing countries should clearly assure that they will not launch a nuclear attack against North and South Korea."

Professor Yun Tok-min from the Research Institute of Diplomatic and Security Affairs, too, insisted: "If North and South Korea are to declare to the world that they will not possess nuclear reprocessing facilities permanently, all Northeast Asian countries should also clearly promise that they will not possess nuclear reprocessing facilities."

Concerning the nuclear reprocessing facilities in North Korea Professor Yun also stressed that "this problem should be solved according to the principle of solving problems between the North and the South."

Professor Yi Sam-song from Hallim University said that from a long-term perspective nuclear reprocessing facilities should be completely eliminated from the Korean peninsula. He said that nuclear reprocessing facilities themselves are synonymous with a nuclear waste processing plant and that, therefore, there is a high possibility of creating environmental pollution. He also said that due to the development of the technology of nuclear energy, there is a high possibility of developing substitute fuel, which is more stable and efficient than plutonium extracted through the nuclear reprocessing process.

Professor Yi said, however, that we should prudently consider the fact that the issue of abolishing reprocessing facilities on the Korean peninsula should be settled in consideration of the appropriate process to be taken and of mutuality [sanghosong]. What professor Yi insists is that the issue of abolishing nuclear reprocessing facilities on the Korean peninsula should be pushed ahead in combination with the issue of denuclearizing the whole Northeast Asia area after the nuclear negotiations, which

are being held between North Korea and the United States, reach a comprehensive solution.

In other words, in its negotiations with North Korea the United States should, first of all, discuss the issue of abolishing nuclear reprocessing facilities after it has cleared North Korea's apprehensions of a security threat. Only through such a process, can the joint declaration of the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula be developed into one which declares that the countries surrounding the Korean peninsula, such as China and Japan, should not possess nuclear reprocessing facilities.

In conclusion, many scholars hold that the issue of denuclearization of the Korean peninsula should be solved in accordance with the principle of solving problems between North and South Korea, without destroying the potential for possessing nuclear reprocessing facilities in case of need in the future.

Article Assesses Ministers' Views on N-S Issue

SK1501071094 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 14 Jan 94 p 5

[Article by Pak Ui-chun: "Policy Adjustments by Unification-Related Ministers Attracts Interest"]

[Text] Since new Deputy Prime Minister Yi Yong-tok replaced the progressively-inclined former Deputy Prime Minister and Unification Minister Han Wan-sang, who served for a short period of time, the issue of harmony within the government's unification-affairs team has emerged as a matter of people's interest. Under circumstances in which North-South dialogue, including working-level contact for the exchange of special envoys between the North and the South, is expected to be resumed soon, remarkable differences in the natures of unification-related ministers have been revealed, particularly, between Deputy Prime Minister Yi and Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu in many aspects.

Since he assumed the post of deputy prime minister—overseer of unification policies—Yi brought up the North Korean human rights issue, which is considered to be the most sensitive issue for North Korea. Following this, on 11 January, during his visit to the administration office for the five North Korean provinces in Kugidong, Seoul, he stressed that "in order to achieve the reunification we desire, North Korea must also change," and that he would not hold dialogue merely as a matter of formality.

In a recent interview with a daily newspaper, he said that "for North and South of Korea to reconcile substantially and advance toward reunification, holding a substantive meeting is important. This is what has prompted my recent remarks that the time for us to choose words only to please North Korea are now gone." His remarks clearly hark back to remarks made in the era of North-South confrontational diplomacy clearly, and clearly display his disposition. His remarks can also be interpreted to be a signal that he will implement different

policies from those of his predecessor who stressed an "appeasement policy" in a bid to induce North Korea to open up.

An expert in North Korean affairs pointed out: Deputy Prime Minister Yi consistently makes improvisatory, expedient remarks instead of providing concrete principles by which we should abide. Such remarks are not helpful to future North-South relations.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Han, who is in fact exclusively handling the North Korean nuclear issue that has emerged as the core of North-South problems, was denounced by North Korea sometime ago for his hard-line remarks against the North. However, his position has always been one of emphasizing "dialogue," and has thus avoided making remarks that would irritate North Korea.

In an article entitled "Foreign Minister Han and the North Korean Nuclear Issue," THE NEW YORK TIMES of the United States recently wrote that "Minister Han regards North Korea not as a sworn enemy but as a capricious, sometime unpredictable, and violent partner and sometimes, as an old relative. Thus, he is full of confidence in dealing with North Korea with a sense of humor and negotiations to the last." This article adequately portrays his nature.

The two also seem to differ on their standpoint on North Korea which is the underlying consciousness to resolving the North Korean problem.

Deputy Prime Minister Yi was involved in the working-level contacts for sending and receiving relief materials between North and South Korea in 1984, and attended the 10th full-dress meeting of North-South Red Cross talks in December 1985 as a senior delegate to the Red Cross talks. As a result, he seems to be keenly aware that North Korea is chiefly responsible for the fact that meetings were held only for the sake of talks between the North and the South and that there was no substantive improvement in North-South relations.

Therefore, although he does not make remarks openly, Deputy Prime Minister Yi, like many other conservatives, seems to firmly believe that North Koreans are not to be trusted and that a great number of problems exist in North Korea. On the other hand, Minister Han has said: While North Korea uses tactics of driving the situation to an extreme on one hand, it also appears to use reason in handling issues overall. However, there are differences in views between upper-level and lower-level officials which is a factor undermining such reason. This factor is being reflected in negotiation conditions and attitudes in actual negotiations.

Minister Han's such view on North Korea reflects a position and will to understand North Korea and to overcome such problems. Thus, his view, in general, is similar to that of former Deputy Prime Minister Han, with only a slight difference. However, there is a great distance between the views of Minister Han and new

Deputy Prime Minister Yi Yong-tok. This somewhat progressive viewpoint of Minister Han did not attract much attention as it was shadowed by former Deputy Prime Minister Han's remarks, which served as a shield.

However, with no Deputy Prime Minister Han, Foreign Minister Han should now attempt to stand alone, because at a glance, no one else amongst the unification-related ministers seems to be more progressive than himself.

DPRK Party Forms 'Operations Team' on ROK

SK1701050994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0457 GMT 17 Jan 94

[Text] Beijing, Jan. 17 (YONHAP)—The North Korean Workers' (Communist) Party recently formed a South Korea operations team led by Kim Yong-chu and Kim Tal-hyon, deputy leader, reliable Western sources said Monday.

The team was formed after the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly held its sixth plenary meeting last December, when Kim Yong-chu, younger brother of President Kim Il-song, was returned to the party leadership and Kim Tal-hyon resigned as deputy premier and chairman of the State Planning Commission.

"This has been confirmed by eastern European diplomats in Pyongyang," said the sources, who are well informed of North Korea's affairs.

In parallel with its move to settle the nuclear issue, North Korea appears to be moving to prepare for dialogue with South Korea, expected to resume as soon as the nuclear issue is settled, they said.

Both Kims are known as moderates in their policy toward South Korea, and their appointment as top South Korea policymakers gives rise to expectations that North Korea will improve its relations with South Korea.

Kim Tal-hyon's appointment as deputy team leader signifies that he is still a member of the party leadership, defying rumors that he was demoted to manager of a textile factory.

'Major Change' in DPRK Firm in Macao Noted

SK1901083994 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 19 Jan 94 p 3

[Article by Min Pyong-il]

[Text] Macao—There appears to have been a major change in the composition of the North Korean setup here following the return of Kim Yong-chu, younger brother of Kim Il-song, to power recently.

Kang Sang-chun, the general manager of the Macao Chokwang Trading Co., thought to be Pyongyang's intelligence office in Macao, was recalled and deputy general manager Pak Cha-pyong took over as general manager

and chairman of the company on Dec 18, 1993, according to a North Korean watcher who wished not to be identified.

"For Pak, it was a glorious return, for when the North Koreans first set up shop in Macao back in 1974, it was Pak who headed the firm," he explained.

Another North Korean watcher told THE KOREA HERALD that Pak was general manager of the company for many years and was very active in the Macao social circles.

"It was Pak who had placed North Korea on the Macao map, so to speak. Whenever there were major functions, particularly China-related, such as national day receptions of the People's Republic of China or spring festival activities by the Beijing-oriented Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, Pak would always be there" he disclosed.

In the 1980s, however, as the fortunes of Chokwang Trading Co. fell, so did Pak.

First, North Korean military personnel engineered a mass assassination plot in Rangoon in October 1983: most of the cabinet members and aides accompanying then President Chon Tu-hwan were killed. Chon was on his way to a national cemetery when the explosion occurred and escaped unharmed.

Then, a Korean Airline (KAL) passenger plane exploded in mid-air over the Indian Ocean, killing all aboard in 1987. Two persons, one elderly man and a girl, Kim Hyon-hui, were arrested in a Middle East city for sabotage. Both swallowed poison but the girl survived.

It was later confirmed that Kim Hyon-hui and her senior accomplice had been trained in Macao for six months before they planted the bomb on the KAL plane.

According to North Korean watchers here, a serious car accident, involving explosives, occurred in Macao within one or two years after the KAL bombing.

Several senior officials of the Chokwang Trading Co. in the car were killed and their bodies were returned to Pyongyang without Macao officials being allowed to perform autopsies.

"It was rumored that the men were killed on Pyongyang's order and that Macao security keeps a very close watch on Chokwang," a North Korean watcher here said.

Shortly after these incidents, Pak, who had by then become very unpopular, was recalled to North Korea.

His successors came, but like the Vietnamese officials who came to Hong Kong after the 1979 border incident with China, they adopted a low profile, he explained.

"Although they were duty bound to turn up at the many functions they always kept to a corner and tried not to attract attention—just like the Vietnamese in Hong Kong," he disclosed.

Despite this, the source went on to say, protocol was observed to the hilt by all parties. On Kim Il-song's birthday, for example, the Macao XINHUA News Agency would send flower trays to Chokwang and Chokwang would hold small parties.

While Kang was managing the Chokwang, according to the North Korean watcher, Pak suddenly turned up in 1992, apparently in a bid to regain some of the North Korean limelight because, he is still well-known in the Macao community.

"However, he was demoted to deputy general manager. Part of his duties appears to be the reestablishment of North Korean prestige and also the reorganization of North Korean business activities in Macao," he explained.

In these two fields, he explained that there has been some progress. Pak is now in his early 60s and should retire soon but he has once again been appointed general manager.

"Speculation is ripe here that his returning to the post may either be a kind of reward for his contribution to Pyongyang or a move to coordinate the return to power of Kim Il-song's brother, Kim Yong-chu," he added.

Russian Intelligence Official on Nuclear Issue

*SK1501052094 Seoul YONHAP in English 0458 GMT
15 Jan 94*

[Text] Moscow, Jan. 15 (YONHAP)—North Korea was on the verge of developing a nuclear weapon when it stopped its nuclear program because of the mounting outside pressure and overwhelming cost, a senior Russian intelligence officer is quoted as saying by MOSCOW NEWS [MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI].

"North Korea was determined in its plan for military application of nuclear technology, and according to our assessment it was near success," Lt. Gen. Gennadiy Yevstafiyev, director-general of massive destruction weapon control bureau of the external intelligence office, says in an interview with the weekly in Friday's edition.

Pyongyang froze its nuclear development program for two reasons, however, because of the international pressure and the recognition that it could no longer afford the enormous financial burden, Yevstafiyev says.

As a result, he says, the communist regime may give up its nuclear program altogether and go entirely public on its nuclear sites.

The intelligence officer points out that extra care is needed so as not to upset the sensitive political situation of North Korea, which is in the middle of a power transfer.

Moscow agrees with international experts on the gravity of the North Korean nuclear problem, he says, adding that Pyongyang's leaders have long sought to manufacture nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and have already succeeded in developing a delivery systems by modifying Scud missiles into the Nodong-1.

Yevstafiyev names North Korea the most dangerous country in the world, with the potential to make nuclear weapons. Next on his list are Israel, India and Pakistan.

He says Pyongyang is playing a big game with Washington in their "nuclear dialogue" and Moscow has therefore to put its national interests first to guarantee safety in the Far East.

'Concern' Over Russian Submarine Sale Expressed

SK1701103594 Seoul YONHAP in English 1021 GMT
17 Jan 94

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 17 (YONHAP)—The Foreign Ministry expressed concern Monday [17 January] at Russian sales of submarines to North Korea lest they be used for something other than for scrap.

Paek Nak-wan, director-general for European Affairs, met with Georgiy Toloraya, minister at the Russian Embassy in Seoul, and explained South Korea's interest in the matter and requested Moscow to disclose the scope of the sale.

Latest press reports quoted a senior official at the Russian Pacific Fleet Command as saying Russia signed a contract to sell North Korea 10 Golf II class submarines not long after it exported four Fox-Trot class submarines to the communist country.

The Golf II submarines are similar to the Fox-Trot types in size, but excel them in speed and cruising range and can carry three SS-N-5 ballistic missiles.

Reports said that the sales were under condition that North Korea use the vessels for scrap.

"If these reports turn out all true, I hope that the vessels will indeed be used for scrap only," said Paek, "but we express concern that North Korea might try to use the submarines for other purposes."

Analysts View Missile Capacity

SK1801023394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0217 GMT
18 Jan 94

[Text] Moscow, Jan. 18 (YONHAP)—The Golf II class submarines that the Russian fleet is selling to North Korea can carry ballistic missiles, Western defense analysts in Moscow said Tuesday.

A senior officer of the Russian Pacific Fleet was quoted as saying that Russia signed a contract with Pyongyang to sell 10 Golf II submarines in a report in a Japanese newspaper Sunday.

The Golf II class was outfitted by the Russian Navy with ballistic missiles and North Korea could load its recently modified Nodong-1 scud missiles on the submarines if they were delivered intact, the analysts said.

Golf II submarines were manufactured until the late 1980s and are an improvement on the Fox-Trot class vessels already sold to North Korea and excel the submarines currently owned by the communist country, they said.

Russian Navy officers say the submarines were sold on condition that they are used for scrap, but North Korea may try to recycle them for military purposes.

The Russian Defense Ministry kept silence on the submarine kind and sales condition on Monday, but denied a report by the TOKYO SHIMBUN.

The Foreign Ministry acknowledged the contract to South Korean diplomats in Moscow, but assured them that the submarines were sold as scrap like ordinary exports.

It has not been revealed whether Russia was selling just the hulls or included the engines, and it is a serious matter if the latter were included, the defense analysts said.

Navy public relations officers affirmed that the submarines to be sold to North Korea would be dismantled under the observation of Russian military experts so that they cannot be used for anything but scrap.

But as its submarines are outdated and obtaining spare parts is very difficult, North Korea may cannibalize the Russian submarines to use the parts in their own submarines, the analysts said.

Because the Golf II and Fox-Trot classes are more modern than its submarines, North Korea's submarine technology will improve even if the Russian vessels arrive dismantled, they said.

Japan is said to be seriously worried because the Golf II submarines can carry ballistic missiles. In addition to the 10 Golf II submarines, Russia has sold and delivered four Fox-Trot types to North Korea, according to the TOKYO SHIMBUN.

Japan's Policy Toward Pyongyang Assessed

SK1801075594 Seoul SISA JOURNAL in Korean 20
Jan 94 pp 45-46

[By Han Chong-ho]

[Text] Recently the Japanese Foreign Ministry issued a report entitled, "Looking Back on the International Situation and Its Prospects." This report sums up the

diplomacy of 1993 and elucidates diplomatic goals for 1994. This report says that the greatest diplomatic tasks for this year are improving U.S.-Japan relations and dealing with North Korea's nuclear issue. In particular, if North Korea agrees to accept the International Atomic Energy Agency's complete inspection at the U.S.-North Korea negotiations, Japan and North Korea will resume working-level contacts in Beijing which was suspended since the eighth Japan-North Korea negotiations in November 1992.

The Japan-North Korea talks which started in January 1991 discussed issues including the issue of compensation for the war crimes committed by Japan. These issues were discussed prior to discussing the establishment of diplomatic relations. When the Japanese side brought up the issue of Yi Un-hye (the Japanese instructor to former North Korean terrorist Kim Hyon-hui who was responsible for the bombing of the Korean Air Lines plane in 1983), the North Korean side left the negotiating table and talks have been suspended since. Japan proposed resuming talks on many occasions, but the North Koreans rejected it each time. A Japanese source in Seoul said: "The Japanese Embassy in Beijing frequently telephones the North Korean Embassy in Beijing on meeting, but the North Korean side continues to reject our proposal."

A Japanese diplomat who assumed office in Beijing in July 1993 has not yet exchanged greetings with the North Korean side. North Korea only recognizes the United States as a counterpart to dialogue and has even left out the ROK. Therefore, the Japanese Government is not hastening to resume the Japan-North Korea talks and is maintaining a position of observing U.S.-North Korea negotiations.

However, the Japanese side is becoming active again. On 28 December 1993, Japanese Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata revealed a desire to resume negotiations with North Korea by using the issue of compensation as a starting point. Also on 9 January, on his way home from visiting China he held a news conference and openly proposed to the North Korean side that negotiations be resumed. Compensation is an issue because North Korea demands compensation for Japan's illegal colonialization of Korea which Japan insists that the Japanese annexation of Korea was legitimate and will only recognize property rights and claims of unpaid wages.

Japan has been experiencing difficulties in the talks because of North Korea's nuclear issue. It also revealed that if North Korea is willing, talks with North Korea may be resumed at anytime. However there are doubts on whether Japan truly wants to achieve talks to establish diplomatic relations with North Korea.

Kim Pong-chin, professor at Japan's North Kyushu University, is in agreement with this claim. In a paper written for a scientific journal published at the National Unification Research Institute, he analyzed: "The greatest agenda in the Japan-North Korea negotiations

to establish diplomatic relations is the issue of liquidating the past. The reason that North Korea is rejecting the talks is that Japan is intentionally neglecting internal tasks such as the issue of compensation by putting forth external elements such as the nuclear issue." Professor Kim continued: "Based on the Cold War era way of thinking, Japan is playing the role of proxy for the U.S. policy toward North Korea and is trying to advance its own interests to the utmost by taking advantage of the weak points and limitations of the ROK's North Korea policy."

Japan's situation on the issue of North Korea's nuclear issue is summarized as 'accepting reality as it is to establish countermeasures.' This theory is that a countermeasure must be provided to prevent nuclear development since a war may break out if sanctions are carried out toward North Korea. More than any other country, Japan is a country that generates the most rumors of danger on the Korean peninsula. Therefore, it is peculiar for Japan to reach such a leisurely conclusion. What Japan is promoting from the level of 'taking measures' for nuclear development is the Theater Missile Defense plan. Japan claims that this is the interceptor system of North Korea's NODONG No. 1 missile, but the ROK experts think that Japan is using North Korea's threat to form a nuclear weapons transportation system.

With North Korea's nuclear problem an issue, Japan is able to favorably lead the Japan-North Korea negotiations towards establishing diplomatic relations and is using the nuclear issue to promote arms proliferation. Once the nuclear issue moves toward settlement, Japan will once again resort to liquidating the past to promote economic relations. Thus, Japan is showing flexibility in adapting to reality. This is the true nature of Japan's practical diplomacy toward the Korean peninsula.

The National Unification Board presented a report entitled "Current Situation and Prospect of Economic Relations Between Japan and North Korea" during parliamentary inspections of government offices last year. According to this report, Japan's post-war policy toward the Korean peninsula was fixed within the framework of U.S. policy on Korea. Since the mid-eighties, however, Japan has pursued practical diplomacy based on a policy of maintaining equal distance towards both South and North Korea under the pretext of the slogan, "Post-war liquidation with North Korea." This report assesses that Japan's strategy toward the Korean peninsula has two parts—the first aims at expanding political influence on the Korean peninsula by normalizing relations with North Korea, and the second aims at promoting economic infiltration with capital and technology in the initiative to reorganize order in Northeast Asia.

North Korea and Japan have virtually restored relations although they have yet to formally establish diplomatic relations. In 1992, a government inspection team presented a surprising report after visiting various places in Japan to inspect cooperative relations between Japan

and North Korea. This report reads: "Japanese businesses have already completed the planning and survey stage and have gained an understanding of North Korea's industrial situation, examined main projects for important areas of North Korea, and studied conditions for investment in North Korea. They are believed to have established personal relations with leading figures in North Korea—influential figures, provincial party officials, and managers of local industrial complexes. It is a matter of concern that the North Korean economy may become subject to that of Japan once diplomatic relations between the two are established.

Japan's Foreign Ministry Concerned About Information Leakage

Japan's East Asian Trade Institute and the Japan-North Korean Trade Association visited Pyongyang together on two occasions in April 1991 and July 1992 to discuss items that North Korea may want to develop and import. Experts are saying that the "tripartite trade route" connecting North Korea and Japan through the former Soviet Union and Hong Kong in the fifties and the sixties has been revived as the "tripartite investment route."

Likewise, Japan is disregarding the nuclear issue and steadily pushing ahead with work to expand its own interests in North Korea. The United States and the ROK will not intervene in Japan's affairs as long as Japan cooperates in the resolution of the nuclear issue and the improvement of South-North relations. In the beginning of the new year, ROK Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu said that he would establish various diplomatic measures in preparation for the North Korean establishment of diplomatic ties with the United States and Japan. Regarding this, a ROK diplomat in Seoul said, "Japan must obtain ROK and U.S. consent before establishing diplomatic ties with North Korea. North Korea is well aware of this. Minister Han's remarks on ROK support in the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two means that the ROK is willing to conciliate North Korea with the Japan card in the last stage of negotiations for resolving the nuclear issue, and not that it will actually help in the establishment of North Korea-Japan diplomatic relations."

Reaching a resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue means the beginning of a new diplomatic war. Japan is preparing for a new strategy towards the Korean peninsula while ROK leaders dream sweet dreams of South-North dialogue, whose resumption remains distant.

On 28 December 1993, a visit to North Korea by a delegation of the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDP] led by dietman Hajime Hukata, director of the Organizational Department of the SDP Central Committee and executive officer of the Japan-DPRK Friendship Promotion League at the request of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] generated interest from diplomatic circles. Hukata is a typical pro-North Korea politician who had visited North Korea on 28 September

1990 with Kanemaru, then-vice president of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan, to realize the joint tripartite declaration. He met Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the WPK and chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, on 30 December. Hwang Chang-yop leads the work to establish diplomatic ties with Japan as the head of a special agency recently established by North Korea on re-establishing diplomatic relations with Japan.

Hukata's visit to North Korea, however, failed to interest ROK and Japanese media because an SDP dietman's visit to North Korea is not meaningful under the situation, in which the coalition ruling party's future is unclear. An official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said, "I observed Hukata's visit to North Korea with interest, but didn't find anything worth noticing."

Ever since the pro-North Korean SDP became the ruling party, the Japanese Foreign Ministry has become deep suspicious of the coalition ruling party's policy toward North Korea. An influential dietman of the Japan Renewal Party, Hajime Isihi, was the executive officer of the team to visit North Korea in 1990, and Chief Cabinet Secretary Kajimura, who controls key departments of the cabinet such as the Intelligence Office, the Foreign Policy Deliberation Office, and the Security Office, was the deputy executive officer of the delegation to North Korea. An unidentified Japanese foreign ministry official told the Japanese press that "It [the Foreign Ministry] cannot help but worry about possible information leakage since most of the Hosokawa regime's members are pro-North Korea."

Japan's diplomatic policy is influenced by government officials. Regarding this, an observer well-versed in Japanese affairs, said to keep an eye on Yutaka Kawashima, minister at the Japanese Embassy in the ROK from July 1992 until November 1993, when he was appointed director of the Foreign Ministry's Asia Department, the hub of Japan's foreign policy.

Original Peacekeeping Unit Returns From Somalia

*SK1501102794 Seoul YONHAP in English 0910 GMT
15 Jan 94*

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 15 (YONHAP)—The original Sangnoksu (Evergreen) unit that had been serving in Somalia as part of the United Nations Peace-keeping Forces there, returned home on Saturday upon being relieved by its replacement.

The engineer unit, led by Battalion Commander Chang Chong-hun, arrived at Seoul Airport in Songnam at 9 A.M.

Later in the day, the unit was accorded a welcome-home ceremony at the Armed Forces Athletic Unit. It was attended by Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae and about 2,000 officers and families of the returnees.

The unit was flown to Somalia on July 29 last year, where it had engaged in various civil programs such as repair of roads, creation of irrigation waterways and operation of schools.

Group Urges Protection of Foreign Workers

*SK1401045894 Seoul YONHAP in English 0252 GMT
14 Jan 94*

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 14 (YONHAP)—The Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice (CCEJ) called Friday morning on the government to protect the human rights of foreign workers, charging that they are forced to work long hours for low wages.

"Nearly 100,000 foreign workers are suffering from long working hours and low wages, but most of them are here illegally so their basic human rights are not properly protected by the law," a CCEJ spokesman said.

Almost 100 CCEJ members joined a march to demand protection for the human rights of foreign workers.

NSP Director Gives New Year Business Report

*SK1801095794 Seoul YONHAP in English 0807 GMT
18 Jan 94*

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 18 (YONHAP)—The Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) will increase its information-gathering capability to better help industry prepare for the coming era of borderless markets by being more competitive, NSP Director Kim Tok said in his new year business report to President Kim Yong-sam on Tuesday.

It will strengthen its early-warning capability by stepping up its efforts to collect and analyze data on North Korea, including information on developments in North Korea's nuclear development program, its policy toward South Korea and its military structure.

The NSP will be restructured in accordance with the NSP law as amended late last year so that it can better promote the national interest and security, Director Kim said.

Information services for the private sector will be increased to make the NSP an intelligence and information agency in which the people have full trust, he said.

President Kim responded to the report by expressing his hope that the NSP grows into a world-level information and intelligence agency.

"We're living in an era where information is power," he told the NSP chief.

Defense Minister's Style, Challenges Viewed

*SK1501120094 Seoul CHUGAN CHOSON in Korean
13 Jan 94 pp 25, 26*

[Article by Yu Yong-won: "Rugby Ball Bounces Unpredictably"]

[Text] "What do you do for your pay?" "Defense Logistics Agency [DLA] Director, I do not quite understand. After all your logical explanations, you yourself do not understand clearly either. Do you?" "Defense Security Commander, when did you learn about this case [fraudulent shell purchase incident]?"

The above is a scene from the high-ranking military officials' "hearing" that took place in the first meeting room of the Ministry of National Defense [MND] called suddenly on 22 December 1993. Such "hearings" and "lectures" followed one after another in the MND after new Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae took office. It is difficult to imagine Minister Yi's continuous unpredictable acts.

On 22 December, immediately after his appointment, the first formal meeting was held with 120 high-ranking military officials from the MND, the Joint Chiefs of Staff [JCS], and chief of each service. There, Minister Yi made the participants sweat by unceasingly reprimanding the director of the DLA (lieutenant general), the head of the special prosecution team (lieutenant general), the chief of the Logistics Bureau (major general), the second assistant vice minister, and the commander of Defense Security Command (brigadier general) for the recent controversy over the gun shell purchase fraud case. In the meeting, Minister Yi urged the relevant military officials to wake up, asking how the people could accept the case when he himself barely understood it.

In addition to the "hearing-style" reprimand, Minister Yi surprised many relevant officials once again that day by personally writing on the board to explain, as if he were a teacher giving a lecture, each time he was supposed to stand up to defend his dignity. By taking an example of U.S. Generals Vessey and Meyers, Minister Yi drew a diagram in an attempt to dispel some people's worries that there would be a large-scale personnel reshuffle because JCS Chief Yi Yang-ho is one year Minister Yi's senior, and Kim Tong-chin, chief of Staff of the ROK Army, is a fellow graduate of the 17th class of the Military Academy. Like an instructor of an institute talking to students, Minister Yi repeatedly stressed, "This is the point. Please underline (or take a second look)," about the subjects he wanted to emphasize.

Minister Yi's "diagram-style lecture" continued on 28 December when he declared the full-scale re-audit and inspection of the Yulgok Project [ROK Army weapons purchase program] and the defense logistics system and facilities. After reading the prepared announcement, he

continued to give his own 15-minute "enthusiastic lecture" while drawing diagrams on the board. He stressed the following four points: The Yulgok Project reform is a true reform; two major directions to improve the Yulgok Project; the inspection is not aimed at specific figures like a "witch hunt" inspection; and supplementary measures for audit and inspection. He used a unique expression of "making the Yulgok Project truly worthy of Yulgok."

Sudden proposal of silent tribute during inauguration speech, "Let us think of the beloved soldiers" [subhead]

Such "Don Quixote-style" acts were seen again at his inauguration ceremony. At the inauguration ceremony held on the morning of 22 December in the Army Hall inside the MND, after reading only the usual greeting part from his prepared inauguration speech, he said, "Now, I will talk about three major points I want to emphasize," and gave an impromptu speech for over 10 minutes.

"First of all, we should prevent a disastrous war, which would cause common destruction of the North and the South, by maximizing combat capabilities. Second, we should achieve a true reform in the national defense field by driving out inefficiency, incompetency, corruption, and irregularities. Third, we should have a strict sense of professionalism over our duty and the Army."

Stating that the next year's [1994] National Defense budget is a tremendous burden to the people forcing each household to share 910,000 won, Minister Yi continued to say in a high tone of voice: "The Army should manage and administer defense manpower and resource with heart-trembling piety." Minister Yi repeated with particular emphasis the phrase "with heart-trembling piety." He also added in a high tone of voice, "(the soldiers) should not spend their time by merely reading newspapers and magazines but they should read about the enemy (North Korea) which threatens us."

Stating "Let us think of our beloved soldiers who are on guard duty day and night and are engaged in operation while exposed to severe cold temperatures and cold wind blowing from the North," Minister Yi paid silent tribute to soldiers, momentarily suspending his inaugural address.

There are two contradictory reactions among military personnel concerning Minister Yi's "eccentric behavior." One is the group of "affirmative assessment" which interprets his behavior as an expression of strong will to push ahead with genuine reform drive in order to make the military worthy of the military, and another is the "critics" group that claims he deals lightly with high-ranking general officers, who regard honor and authority as their own lives; by holding press interviews too frequently; and being conscious of his own publicity.

However, most of military-related officials share the view that Minister Yi is doing his utmost to recover the honor of the military, which has been driven into a

corner with the shells import incident. It was learned that for the first two weeks after he came to office, Minister Yi stayed late in his office, between 2200 to 0130, in order to acquaint himself with the work, except when he had to attend an unavoidable official dinner meeting or other functions. With the minister's forced march, working-level officials could not return to their homes until late at night, even during the year-end days.

Many military officials are concerned with the fact that the scope of Minister Yi's choice is not wide under the present situation. Former Minister Kwon Yong-hae was relieved and Minister Yi took office as a result of the shell import incident, and the interest of the people, including the supreme commander of the military, is so great that Minister Yi is being pressed hard to eliminate the people's suspicion on this incident. Besides, he is assigned a task to resolve the doubt on the Yulgok Project [ROK Army weapons purchase program] and on logistic irregularities.

Phenomena, far distant from Minister Yi's public pledge, already began to appear. In the first meeting with military officials on the day of his inauguration, he clearly stated that there would be no shocking personnel reshuffle within the military. However, he suddenly dismissed two lieutenant general-grade officers, including Kim Sang-chun, JCS chief of operations; and Yi Taek-hyong, JSC chief of strategy, last 30 December. They were all members of Hanahoe [a private circle of military academy graduates] and were already on the reshuffle list last October. However, since a step was taken throughout the entire armed forces to strengthen combat readiness through March 1994, their replacement is to be withheld until that time. Thus, there were many speculations about the change in this policy.

Lieutenant General Yi reported the greatest amount of personal properties among the military general officers during the period of official registration of personal properties by government officials last September. He has been even suspected of real estate speculation. Lt Gen Kim also belonged to the top group when the military generals made public their personal assets. As a result, some believe that the reshuffle was prompted by the disclosure of their assets. The reshuffle contradicts some people's speculation that since Minister Yi himself is a Hanahoe member, those from Hanahoe will be saved in the future, thus attracting public attention. Some are concerned with a possibility that the personnel reshuffle to be carried out sooner or later in connection with the shell import incident will be a large-scale one.

Minister Yi is also given a difficult task of figuring out how he should accept in the future "the wind" blowing from outside forces, including Chongwadae [presidential office], that expect reform, regardless of his own will for a reform drive, in a way that the military would not fall to pieces [wahae]. He also needs to overcome some people's criticism that Minister Yi has been merely posturing when he has expressed his will for reform over the past two weeks. In conclusion, Minister Yi's "clever

moves" to overcome such a difficult situation facing the military is the target of the people's attention.

Naktong River Pollution Becomes Political Issue

*SK1401100694 Seoul YONHAP in English 0729 GMT
14 Jan 94*

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 14 (YONHAP)—Just when the country appeared to have run out of hot political issues, drinking water contaminated with cancer-causing chemicals gushed out of faucets in households in Pusan and other cities along the Naktong River, making big waves among government leaders and politicians.

President Kim Yong-sam promised Friday that his administration will work out short- and long-term measures to clean up the country's water resources so that all citizens are able to drink safe and clean water.

"Government officials should not just follow the inertia of the past administrations, but tell environmental and health problems to the citizenry," he said, apparently blaming previous administrations for today's water pollution.

The people, for their part, should actively contribute to national efforts to clean up water resources by not dumping garbage and liquid waste into rivers, Kim said.

Ruling and opposition parties, meanwhile, hastily dispatched fact-finding missions to South Kyongsang Province while forming party committees to debate the problem.

They sharply criticized the administration for leaving the state of pollution in the Naktong River as it is today.

Both the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] and main opposition Democratic Party [DP] failed, however, to come up with any suggestion or alternative action for the administration to take immediately.

It was the stench emanating from the tap water in homes in Pusan and other cities in lower South Kyongsang Province, and complaints by citizens that alerted government officials to look into the woeful state of pollution of the Naktong River earlier this week.

Showing the situation to be even worse than feared, government officials announced Thursday that they had

found traces of cancer-causing benzene and other chemicals in the Naktong River, from which tap water is drawn, raising grave concern among people in the area.

The parties have decided that the National Assembly Health and Social Affairs Committee will hold a hearing Saturday to grill the responsible government officials and try to work out measures to clean up the mess.

The DLP convened an unscheduled meeting of party postholders Friday morning and discussed the problem but could not make any concrete suggestion to the government.

"I have nothing to announce," DLP spokesman Ha Sun-pong said after the meeting. "We just exchanged our concerns.

"Right now, the administration is working on measures among the ministries concerned," he said. "The party will make an overall and comprehensive action plan after listening to them."

DLP Secretary-general Mun Chong-su acknowledged that the government and ruling party should have done something about the Naktong River pollution three years ago, when an industrial company was caught dumping phenol into the river.

The DLP is resolved, he said, to support the government in its efforts to clean up pollution not only in the Naktong but all the rivers in the country.

The Democratic Party, calling the Naktong River pollution the worst man-made disaster in the nation's history, demanded that the government take fundamental action.

"Some 10 million people in southern South Kyongsang Province have been drinking water contaminated by cancer-causing chemicals," DP spokesman Pak Chi-won said.

"The government should trace those responsible for the contamination and arrest them immediately while making efforts to prevent further pollution," he said.

DP members of the Health and Social Affairs Committee will use the findings of a party investigation team sent down to the area Thursday in questioning government officials.

The opposition party, taking the position that the Naktong River "disaster" is a direct result of a lack of government environmental measures and lack of supervision, pressed again its demand for an extraordinary assembly session in January.

Burma

Karen National Union Arrests Student Leaders

BK1801135094 Hong Kong AFP in English 1338 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] Bangkok, Jan 18 (AFP)—The head of the main association of Burmese students in exile, Moe Thee Zun, has been arrested along with 11 comrades by their allies in the Karen National Union (KNU), a communique received here Tuesday said.

The communique, issued by the All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF), said the 12 had been detained Sunday in Mannerplaw, the headquarters of the ethnic Karen insurrection, located on the Thai border.

It also accused the KNU of handing down an ultimatum to all students in the area to hand over their weapons to the KNU. The ultimatum reportedly expired at dawn Monday.

An official with the KNU said he was unable to confirm or deny the report.

The ABSDF said the 12 had been detained "without any apparent reason" and demanded their release. The KNU is the oldest and most powerful opposition group battling the ruling junta, or State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), which holds power in Rangoon. Other opposition groups came together last week to support the KNU in opening peace talks with the SLORC.

The KNU has around 1,500 and 1,700 students in its ranks.

Sources in the Burmese opposition in Bangkok said the arrests were aimed at blocking these students from leaving with their weapons and teaming up with the remnants of the Burmese Communist Party (BCP).

The BCP disbanded in 1989 after an internal squabble.

Myo Nyunt Addresses Convention on Security

BK1901043794 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1500 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Address by Lieutenant General Myo Nyunt, chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission, to the National Convention Plenary Session at Rangoon's President House compound on 18 January—recorded]

[Excerpts][passage omitted] National Convention delegates: Let us review the current situation. The current situation is very delicate as SLORC is striving to achieve national unity. It will not be necessary to elaborate on the achievements of SLORC during its term of office in improving national security, economic, social affairs, education, health, preservation of national culture, border region development, and infrastructure improvement nationwide. On the political front, there is special success in regard to national unity.

There is peace and security in areas where insurgency prevailed for over 45 years since independence. Most of the country's territory is now peaceful and tranquil and we still have to strive to bring about peace and tranquility to the remaining areas, sooner or later. It is now the time for all our fraternal national people to work hand in hand to ensure our country, which we love and cherish, is fully peaceful and becomes a developed and modern nation. Currently, we are giving priority to bringing about the highest level of national unity. Therefore, I urge all national people, including the delegates and organizations, to have genuine goodwill and to put the interests of the nation ahead of one's own and one's group.

The delegates at the National Convention had discussed and presented suggestions to obtain basic principles on which the fundamental principles of the state should be based in drafting the State Constitution. The delegates still have to hold discussions on details of the basic principles for each chapter to fully implement these basic principles. There may be differences of opinion or identical opinions on holding discussions and consultations. It is important not to be dissatisfied when opinions are not the same. It is important that one's view and that of others serve the interests of the nation and that it is viable. Only the views and methods which serve the basic interests of the national people at the highest level in the most practical way is desirable.

Presently, various indigenous people are living together in our nation. As the indigenous people become more aware and developed, they have an increasing desire to manage their regions themselves. Therefore, we should be magnanimous in helping the indigenous people, as that is in accordance with the prescribed basic principles, to get the right to the management they deserve. [passage omitted]

It is important that the structure of the state upholds the three cardinal causes [nondisintegration of the Union, nondisintegration of national unity, and the perpetuation of national sovereignty] as its essence. It is important to strive to further strengthen the Union. It is important for parts of the Union—divisions, major regions, and states—to jointly strive for the perpetuation of the Union; a prestigious place for the country in the community of nations; and the emergence of a modern, developed, and strong nation. It is especially important for parts of the Union to strive to ensure the interests of the Union are not violated and to contribute its welfare.

The basic principles for the chapter on the head of state is to be discussed at the National Convention. The basic principles with the president as the head of state and the system of administration with the president as the chief executive have been obtained. Details concerning the qualifications of the president, who elects the president, and the president's rights and responsibilities are to be discussed at the convention.

In considering the special needs of the state administrative system, it should be noted that the world communications and transportation are not like before; they are

developing fast. The international political, economic, social, and military situation is changing every moment. Taking these changes into account, it has become necessary to have a fast and effective administrative machinery. The future system of administration must be modern and effective to safeguard the interests of the nation, to ensure the perpetuation of national sovereignty, the defense of the country's land, air, and maritime territory, and the prevention of violations against the country's prestige and interests.

Our delegates from the Defense Services will take on the responsibility we deserve and give our assistance to the best of our ability in electing the president. This is to ensure the administrative system with the president as chief executive is fast and effective and meets the nation's defense requirement in the fast changing international situation. It has become necessary to give such assistance because we want to defend the country in a timely manner, in today's fast changing international situation that has repercussions on our nation's interests to a certain extent.

While I have the opportunity, I would like to speak on the third cardinal cause—the perpetuation of national sovereignty, which is crucial to a country. No one should attempt to undermine and weaken the country's sovereignty. We shall not tolerate the undermining of national sovereignty in any way. We shall not tolerate external threats to our national sovereignty, and we shall not tolerate threats to our national sovereignty from internal minions. Sovereignty, which belongs to the people, is the highest [power] and it should be exercised by a central body according to constitutional provisions. Therefore, it will be necessary for other organizations not to infringe upon the rights of the central body. National sovereignty belongs to all the indigenous people who have the responsibility to respectfully safeguard the sovereignty with their lives.

National Convention delegates: The environment we are currently experiencing provides a very valuable lesson for our future journey. The conditions are alerting us to be vigilant. Some of those who are opposing national interests are still striving to obtain power through a short cut. They are ignoring the concrete conditions in the country marked by progress and are espousing a pessimistic outlook in making false accusations against the state.

In accordance with international norms, international governmental organizations are not interfering in our internal affairs. However, some organizations under the influence of imperialists are busy interfering in the internal affairs of others and we hear about them daily. It will be irresponsible to ignore the threat from this neocolonialist group and those opposing national interests.

National Convention delegates: The six objectives which we should all strive for without fail are: nondisintegration of the Union; nondisintegration of national unity; perpetuation of national sovereignty; the promotion of

genuine multiparty democracy; the promotion of Lawkapa [universal] principle of justice, liberty, and equality; and the participation of the Defense Services in the leading role in future national politics. I conclude here by urging the delegates to give good suggestions and hold discussions and consultations for the emergence of a state constitution which is in accordance with these six objectives and contribute to the promotion of the essence of the 104 basic principles that we have obtained for prescribing the fundamental principles of the state.

Laos

Communications Agreement Signed With SRV

BK1901114594 Vientiane KPL in English 0851 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Vientiane, January 19 (KPL)—Laos and Vietnam, on January 17, signed a memorandum on cooperation in communications for 1994. Heading the Vietnamese delegation was Mr. Tran Khay, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Planning, president of the Vietnamese-Lao Cooperation Committee.

The vice chairman of the Committee for Planning and Cooperation of Laos, Mrs. Khampheng Phonsena, signed the cooperation memorandum with the vice chairman of the Vietnamese State Committee for Planning.

According to the document, their cooperation in the field last year saw progress. The sides exchanged cooperation plans for 1994, and agreed to concentrate funds for the construction of Road 8 and Nam Theun Bridge, Road 1 on the Lao side, and for the repair of Roads 9, 12, 18, 42 and 7. All the roads will serve as sea access to the east for Laos and as communications link between the two countries.

The document also provides that the Vietnamese side will continue providing favourable conditions for the Lao side to keep on using the existing facilities of the Vietnamese seaports such as Danang, Hai Phong, and Cua Lo. The Vietnamese side also said that it will improve the quality of the existing seaports.

The sides agreed that they will meet again to discuss the matter of in-transit goods transportation in the two countries. The meeting was expected next month, in Hanoi or Vientiane. The visit of the Vietnamese State Committee for Planning took place on January 11-18.

Party-State Leaders, People Observe Army Day

BK1901115194 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] On the occasion of a celebration for the 45th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Army [LPA], yesterday morning groups of party-state leading figures led by Maichantan Sengmani, Political Bureau member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and chairman of the Party-State Control

Board; other Political Bureau members of the Party Central Committee including Saman Vi-gnaket, Oudom Khatthi-gna, Choummali Sai-gnason, and Thongsing Thammavong; members of the Party Central Committee; ministers; and representatives of mass organizations laid wreaths to the Monument of Unknown Soldiers to express their gratitude to and commemorate the virtuous acts of the revolutionary combatants who sacrificed their lives, flesh, and blood for the country.

On the morning of the same day, the delegation of the National Defense Ministry headed by Lieutenant General Choummali Sai-gnason, Political Bureau member of the Party Central Committee and minister of national defense; and the delegation of the Ministry of Interior led by Major General A-sang Laoli, member of the Party Central Committee and minister of the interior also laid wreaths to the unknown soldiers monument.

Earlier on the morning of 16 January, Maichantan Sengmani, Political Bureau member of the Party Central Committee and chairman of the Party-State Control Board, led a group on a visit to military officers and men hospitalized at Hospital 103 and Hospital No. 2, while Oudom Khatthi-gna, Political Bureau member of the Party Central Committee, who is in charge of guiding mass organizations, led a team on a visit to the center for the physically-handicapped at Tha Ngon. During the visit, he also chatted with pensioners and families of revolutionary combatants.

Meanwhile, on the evening of 17 January at the clubhouse of the Army General Political Department of the Ministry of National Defense in Vientiane, the arts troupe of the Vietnam People's Army put on its first performance to create a joyous atmosphere for the celebration of the 45th founding anniversary of the LPA on 20 January.

Foreign Attaches Call on Deputy Minister

BK1901114794 Vientiane KPL in English 0842 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Vientiane, January 19 (KPL)—On January 18, Lieutenant General [Lt. Gen] Siphon Phalikhan, deputy defence minister, received at the Ministry of National Defence a group of military attaches of friendly countries to Laos in anticipation of the 45th anniversary of the Lao People's Army (20/1/1949-1994).

On the occasion Lt. Gen. Siphon Phalikhan, who is also head of the General Political Department of the Army, on behalf of the Ministry of Nation Defence, the Lao People's Army, and Lao people expressed thanks to the attaches.

He was also convinced that the ties of friendship between the Lao army and people with the armies and peoples of the countries the military attaches represented be strengthened and developed unceasingly on the basis of mutual respect of independence and sovereignty.

The military attaches who presented their best wishes included those from Vietnam, Cambodia, Russia, Thailand, China, Cuba, and India to Laos.

On the same day morning, representatives of ministries, agencies, mass organisations, state enterprises, and private companies also called on Major General Soulima Bounleut of the defence ministry.

WPK Sends Condolences on Death of Phoumi

BK1901084494 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] The Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee sent a telegram of condolences to the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee on 9 January.

The telegram reads: The WPK Central Committee would like to express its profound grief and sorrow to the LPRP Central Committee, the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and the Lao people upon hearing the sad news that Comrade Phoumi Vengvichit, adviser to the LPRP Central Committee, has passed away. On this occasion, please extend our condolences and regards to his family.

Thailand

Market Access, Bentsen Meetings Discussed

Finance Minister Meets Bentsen

BK1901021594 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Jan 94 pp 17, 29

[Excerpt] THAILAND told the United States yesterday that by April it would improve its offer for foreign companies to gain access to the Thai financial market under the Uruguay Round of world trade talks.

April is when the Uruguay Round agreements are due to be signed formally in Morocco. Thai Finance Minister Tharin Nimmanhemmin said he told visiting US Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen that the new offer to be submitted in April would include allowing foreign brokerages to own up to 49 percent of Thai securities companies once these have been separated from finance companies.

The new foreign ownership rule has already been agreed by the Cabinet. Its importance in the Uruguay Round deal would be the commitment under a new General Agreement on Trade in Services not to backtrack.

Thailand's previous offer, which also covers banking, insurance and other services, did not make the 49 percent ownership commitment for securities companies.

Other revisions could also be included in the new offer, such as permission for US banks to set up automatic teller machines around the country. But Mr Tharin told reporters yesterday that this would have to be considered before a commitment is made.

Mr Tharin stressed yesterday that the discussions with Mr Bentsen were under the multilateral umbrella of the Uruguay Round and were not bilateral.

The question of financial services liberalisation was one of four major topics discussed when Mr Bentsen met Prime Minister Chuan Likphai, Mr Tharin and Bank of Thailand Governor Wicitt Suphinit yesterday.

The other three were a request from Mr Bentsen for ideas on the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) group's finance ministers meeting in Hawaii in March, bilateral negotiations on a double taxation treaty, and a US request for Thailand to enact a law against money laundering—the latter a less controversial issue according to Thai ministers.

In the morning he visited the Stock Exchange of Thailand, but SET president Seri Chintanaseri said the question of access to the Thai market for foreign stock brokers was not raised. [passage omitted]

Broker, SET Chiefs on Access

*BK1901023394 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
19 Jan 94 p 26*

[Text] FINANCE Minister Tharin Nimmanhemmin told US Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen yesterday that Thailand will improve its financial market access, but this does not mean that foreign brokers will have full freedom to enter the country.

Not, that is, unless the law is revised so that the 49 percent limit on foreign ownership of securities firms is lifted.

Some Thai brokers point out that even Thai companies face restrictions in share trading because of limits on licences issued for stock market members.

Sa-ngad Sataphattana, Baring Research's director, does not see full broker status for foreign companies in the next couple of years because, not only foreign firms, but also securities companies in the country cannot easily get brokerage licences.

There are 40 full brokers in Thailand, while a bigger number are subbrokers which have been coveted to gain broker status. [as published]

The Stock Exchange of Thailand [SET] recently announced that it would grant another four broker licences to sub-brokers. The new brokers will be chosen from sub-brokers which have a good track record.

"Whether or not the securities business will be opened to foreign countries depends on the readiness of securities houses in Thailand and the securities market size of the country," said Mr Sa-ngad.

He added that few local brokers were in a position to compete with foreign firms. The development of the Thai capital market is not sufficient to cope with the entry of foreign securities firms.

"Thailand has only one secondary market for stock trading. An over-the-counter market has not been established yet. Debt instruments, which lack liquidity, are at the fledgling stage," said Mr Sa-ngad.

He said US securities firms did not have a commitment in Thailand's market. The demand by the US Treasury Secretary for the liberalisation of the securities business is only aimed at paving the way for the entry of US firms in the future.

"The US securities business in Thailand is tiny when compared to that of European countries. Normally, US securities firms will send a team to handle big underwriting deals in Thailand, such as the recent underwriting of Bangkok Bank's debt instruments by Morgan Stanley," said Mr Sa-ngad.

Seri Chintanaseri, the Stock Exchange of Thailand's president, who met with Mr Bentsen yesterday morning, said the US Treasury Secretary did not discuss anything about the possibility of foreign firms operating securities businesses in Thailand.

Mr Seri said Mr Bentsen just wanted information about the SET index, listed companies and member companies of the SET and its computer trading system.

Whether or not local securities firms are ready to compete with foreign companies, Mr Seri said, is a matter for the Government to decide in consultation with the SET. He said the liberalisation of the securities industry would have to be harmonised with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Rapi Sucharitkun, the Securities and Exchange Commission's spokesman, said Thailand had to revise regulations to liberalise the securities industry.

"The maximum limit on foreign holdings in securities firm in Thailand is 49 percent. The limit has to be boosted to enable foreigners to be major shareholders before seeking broker seats," noted Mr Rapi who added that this would take a long time.

A source at the Finance Ministry said the ministry was studying ways to liberalise the country's financial industry, including the securities business.

"The possibility of securities liberalisation is still far away. But the US may apply pressure to liberalise financial services at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation group, which will have a (finance ministers') meeting in March," said the source who added that most ASEAN countries did not want to open their financial markets to the US.

Editorial Urges Resolve on Demands

BK1901092794 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 19 Jan 94 p 3

[Text] The blockage of the Tokyo Bay by a U.S. fleet under the command of Commodore Perry to force Japan to open its market was the first chapter of Japan's modern history. Now the United States is sending Treasury Secretary Lloyd

Bentsen to visit China, Indonesia, and Thailand with a specific mission of prying open their markets for the major U.S. service sectors so that they can earn money freely in this region. The treasury secretary's maneuvers are being closely observed and many wonder if Bentsen is the second Commodore Perry.

As Thailand is one of the three targets of his mission, Bentsen is determined to unlock the services market, particularly the capital and financial market which involves the operation of commercial banks, stock brokerage firms, and insurance companies. Besides civil aviation, he will discuss with Thai officials ways to solve the double taxation problem left unsettled on the negotiating table for two decades and ask Thailand to pass a law dealing with money laundering.

We believe that what the United States wants most is the opening of the Thai financial market, probably the part involving banking services and stock trading. Statistics shows that the total value of the stock trade value last year was over 2.053 trillion baht, an average of 8.597 billion baht per day. Trading by foreign investors amounted to 581.869 billion baht or 14.10 percent. Since late last year, more U.S. capital has been flowing into the stock market. Therefore, the United States must try to play a role as large as possible in the Thai financial sector.

We want the officials concerned to think thoroughly and avoid yielding to all Bentsen's demands because that could lead to the collapse of Thai commercial banks and brokerage firms, not because the U.S. banks and brokerage firms have more expertise in this field. If we open our market for the United States, we will have to do the same with all other countries. Hence, we will have to face strong competition with banks from other major financial powers like Japan, the European countries, Australia, and Canada.

Liberalization of our financial market is a good thing. But if it means the death of Thai businesses, we must avoid it altogether or try to do it gradually. We want to remind everyone concerned that the United States has clearly announced that its financial market will remain closed until next September, even after the new GATT rule takes effect. In other words, the United States has said frankly that it will not open its financial market. Thailand can at least cite this as an excuse for doing the same thing.

Thai commercial banks and stock brokerage firms should be aware of the fact that we can no longer block U.S. banks and brokerage firms. So, we must prepare ourselves for competition through the merger of banking and brokerage services in advance.

Uthai: No Disagreement With Malaysia on EAEC

BK1901110394 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Malaysian Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz called on Commerce Minister

Uthai Phimchaichon at the Commerce Ministry this morning to ask him about Thailand's stand in the upcoming meeting of APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] finance ministers. [passage meeting]

Asked about the report that Thailand has no confidence in the EAEC [East Asia Economic Caucus] grouping which Malaysia has been trying to form, Uthai Phimchaichon said that Thailand agreed with such a grouping, adding however that it is only an idea at this stage.

Asked about the cause of Malaysia's confusion over Thailand's stand, the commerce minister said that even sources in the Thai Commerce Ministry often give confusing information in this regard. [passage omitted]

Agenda, Format for Regional Security Forum

BK1901014994 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Jan 94 p 8

[Excerpt] THAILAND has put forward proposals on the format and agenda for a new regional security forum that is to have its first meeting in Bangkok in July officials said yesterday.

The Thai proposals towards the inaugural meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) were tabled to a gathering yesterday of senior officials of ASEAN.

Officials declined to give details of the proposals but said the idea was for the forum to be held in an atmosphere in which all participants felt "comfortable".

A total of 18 countries are to participate in the forum, which for the first time will see China, Russia, Vietnam, Laos and Papua New Guinea join the six ASEAN states and their seven main trading partners in security discussions. [passage omitted]

Vietnam

Senators Inouye, Stevens Conclude Visit

BK1301161094 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] On 10 and 11 January U.S. Senators Daniel Inouye and Ted Stevens, chairman and vice chairman respectively of the Defense Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee, paid a visit to Vietnam with four aides.

The delegation was received by Dang Quan Thuy, National Assembly vice chairman and chairman of the National Assembly Defense Committee. The delegation also met Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai, Deputy Trade Minister Ta Ca, and Nguyen Nhac, deputy minister chairman of the Cooperation and Investment State Commission. During the meetings, Senators Inouye and Stevens affirmed that it was time to close the sorrowful page of the past in U.S.-Vietnamese relations in order to build a better future for the two peoples. They also said

that the long-term relationship between the two countries should be based on mutual understanding, respect, and benefits.

The senators also wished that U.S. businessmen would soon have opportunity to do business in Vietnam. The delegation also expressed concern about the fate of American servicemen missing in the war, and thanked the Vietnamese Government and people for their positive cooperation in this issue, thus contributing to reducing the agony of the American families who have relatives missing in the war. The delegation promised to report this situation to the U.S. Senate.

The delegation left for home on the afternoon of 11 January.

Le Mai Comments on Human Rights Dialogue

*BK1301144994 Hanoi VNA in English 1445 GMT
13 Jan 94*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan 13—Dialogue between nations on common issues of the world has the effect of narrowing down disagreement while promoting mutual understanding, said Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai on Thursday.

This trend is growing in present-day international relations, he said in an interview granted to VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY.

Le Mai said each nation has the responsibility of guaranteeing human rights within its territorial boundaries. He also acknowledged that human rights were the concern of the world community as a whole.

He said Vietnam agreed to talk with other countries on human rights because it wanted those countries to understand that the people of Vietnam had given so much for man's sacred fundamental rights on this land, and were making tremendous efforts in all fields—political, economic, cultural and social—to ensure human rights in their country.

"We will talk with other countries", Le Mai said, "so that a correct understanding can be had on the fundamental principles of an international law on human rights, namely respect for national independence and national sovereignty, respect for the right of nations to self-determination, particularly the right for each to choose its own path of development, respect for national, community of individual rights, respect for political, civil, economic and social right of the citizen and respect for the right of nations for development which is now a topical problem of the world". [sentence as received]

Le Mai dismissed recent press reports about dialogue on "certain aspects of human rights in Vietnam". "Vietnam and other countries have agreed that their exchanges of views will be conducted on the basis of equality, mutual respect and non-interference", he stressed.

Le Mai said he believed the talks would be positive and constructive. "If our interlocutors can say concretely where and how our law does not conform strictly to international law we will [words indistinct] seriously and refer them to Vietnamese competent bodies for consideration".

"At the same time we will try to make other countries share our views that man's most fundamental rights are national self-determination and development, which must be strictly respected," Le Mai added.

He said he hoped the world community, through dialogue, would gradually establish mutual respect and [words indistinct] and equal, mutually beneficial cooperation on human rights.

"Human rights should not be used as a tool for one country to impose on, or interfere in, another country", Le Mai concluded.

Dutch Transportation Minister on Joint Ventures

*BK1901093694 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English
1000 GMT 18 Jan 94*

[Text] The establishment of the Vietnamese-Dutch Trade Joint Venture Limited Company has initiated investment cooperation in bilateral transport and communications. The joint venture is between the Vietnamese Ministry of Transport and Communications and the Port and Gas Consortium of the Netherlands.

The Netherlands is one of the largest investors in Vietnam. At present, it has nine projects with total capitalization of \$227 million, ranking it eighth among 42 countries in investment capital. It follows Taiwan, Hong Kong, France, Australia, South Korea, Japan, and Britain.

Most of the Dutch investment is in oil and gas, light industry, and tourism.

Speaking to the media in Hanoi on October 12, Dutch Transport Minister Maij-Weggen said that under the agreement on air services signed with Vietnam Airlines, KLM will operate two flights weekly from Amsterdam to Ho Chi Minh City and expand services to Hanoi.

Maij-Weggen said: Developments in Vietnam are taking place rapidly. In the next few years, it will be faced with difficult choices with which we, in Holland, are all too familiar, especially in your densely populated coastal areas. The available water is used in many different ways. In densely populated areas, for drinking water, for industry, and for fishing. On the other hand, water forms an invaluable transport artery. [Word indistinct] water management is therefore essential in order to allow all of these typical activities. Without being immodest, I think I can say that Holland has something to offer here.

Vietnam is striving to draw more investment capital for infrastructure construction, primarily for transportation and postal services.

By October 1993, the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment has granted licenses to 22 transportation and postal services projects with total capitalization of \$432 million.

Thai Military Delegation Visits 10-14 Jan

BK1401145794 Hanoi VNA in English 1441 GMT 14 Jan 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 14—A delegation of the Thai Royal National Defence College led by Gen. Niyom Sansanakhom, director of the National Defence Study Institute visited Vietnam from Jan. 10- 14. While here, the delegation paid a tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum. It was received by the leading officials of the National Defence Ministry and Foreign Affairs Ministry. It had working session with the high military institute, and visited the People's Army Museum, the 7th Military Zone, Ho Chi Minh City and a number of cultural and scientific establishments.

Doan Khue Greet Lao People's Army Day

BK1901071694 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] On the occasion of the 45th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Army, General Doan Khue, minister of National Defense, sent a congratulatory message to Lieutenant General Choummali Sai-ngason, minister of national defense of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Measures Urged To Stop Sale of Imitation Goods

BK1801125194 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 17 Jan 94

[Unattributed essay]

[Excerpts] Dear friends: Every year when the traditional Tet New Year arrives, those who manufacture and trade imitation goods pour large amounts of goods into the market to hoodwink consumers.

Incomplete statistics reveal that 19 large provinces and cities in the country have, over the past nine months, discovered and taken legal action against the more than 600 cases involving the manufacture of and trade in imitation goods. It is certain that this figure is far below reality.

The Hanoi market control sector lately has inspected various liquor stalls at the Hang Da Market and on Tran Xuan Soan Street near the Duc Vien Market. Initial reports show that seven stalls were found selling imitation whisky. Currently, there are only small quantities of preserved fruits presently on sale for consumption during the Tet New Year. But intense preparations are being made by counterfeiters of preserved fruits with famous brand names. The places from which counterfeit goods are produced are located mainly in suburban blind alleys or in provinces adjacent to Hanoi. An example is

the case where the Ba Dinh Precinct Security Police captured red-handed Nguyen Van Che of Phu Lo Village in Dong Anh, a suburban district of Hanoi, as he— together with three other accomplices— was canning fake Beer 33. Two thousand counterfeit beer cans, 100,000 metal top pieces, and a pressing machine were seized on the spot. The offenders testified that they had counterfeited and marketed 20,000 cans of Beer 33 over the past three months.

Last week, Hanoi market control forces arrested three counterfeiters in Phuc Tho District of Ha Tay Province and Dinh Bang District of Ha Bac Province. The forces seized nearly 5,000 packs of counterfeit brand name cigarettes.

Not long ago, the Vung Tau Customs Office discovered 106 bales of imported goods. These imports, weighting 4,000 tons, were found to be sub-assemblies for wrist watches. The wrapping paper shows these products were manufactured in Japan, but an inspection of the contents found that they were low-quality watch sub-assemblies manufactured in another territory. [passage omitted]

At present, as many as 50 percent of production establishments have not registered their trademarks, qualities, and copyrights. [passage omitted]

The state currently does not have any policies available to encourage market control forces to strive harder to fight imitation goods. Funds allocated to this kind of operation are still too small. Almost all of the imitation goods confiscated should be destroyed or recycled. Moreover, efforts to verify imitation goods are facing difficulties because of a lack of cooperation among laboratory testing organs, the trade firms concerned, and the imitation goods control force. [passage omitted]

Bui Thien Ngo Discusses Corruption, Smuggling

BK1501164194 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 23 Dec 93 pp 1-2

[Interview with Bui Thien Ngo, Politburo member and interior minister, by Hong Vinh; date and place not given]

[Text] [Hong] Could you please give an overall evaluation of recent important changes in the struggle against corruption and smuggling?

[Bui] In implementing Directive No. 15 dated 20 November 1992 issued by the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau and the Decision No. 114 dated 21 November 1992 by the prime minister on suppressing and eliminating corruption and smuggling, the government has tried to direct the ministries, sectors, and localities in carrying out various important measures and has achieved significant initial progress. The determination of the party and state in radically suppressing corruption and smuggling received widespread support

from the cadres and people. There have been more corruption and smuggling cases detected and handled strictly than before.

[Hong] But, Dear Minister, our cadres and people still have a lot to worry about in regard to these problems.

[Bui] That is correct. Although the direction has been more resolute than before, our achievements were still very limited, and in some areas the number of corruption cases even grew. Areas of great concern are basic construction, real estate, and illegal automobile and motorcycle imports through the ports and southwestern borders. These activities occur mainly in major economic sectors like trade, construction, communication and transportation, marine products, agriculture, and the food industry. Many agencies and authorities have allowed individual traders to use their power to engage in smuggling activities. In the first 10 months of this year, we discovered 918 corruption cases involving 285 billion dong, 95 percent more in terms of the number of cases and 244 percent higher in terms of the money involved compared with the same period last year. Corruption was detected, not only in economic and business agencies, but also in law enforcement agencies or in agencies directly charged with preventing and fighting corruption and smuggling, such as customs, taxation, public security, inspection, courts, and so forth.

[Hong] What are typical recent examples of corruption?

[Bui] Analyzing the cases detected, we can list some general types of corruption activities as follows:

Violating laws and regulations relating to budget expenditure and income.

Abusing joint business ventures by colluding with foreign partners to cheat in import-export activities.

Violating state regulations on real estate management and basic construction.

The most serious situation was the popular trend of wrong-doing among leading cadres at some ministries, sectors, and localities, who only care about their sector's benefit and ignore the laws and regulations. They even go beyond their authority to set up economic and financial regulations themselves, thus assisting corruption and smuggling activities and worsening the already complicated situation.

[Hong] Dear Minister, what are the noteworthy features of the struggle against smuggling?

[Bui] There was a reduction of smuggling directly involving state authorities and economic agencies under social and political organizations. The implementation of verification and control measures, though still bearing many shortcomings, has begun to help the concerned agencies recognize those professional smugglers, punish them severely, and repress the haughty and challenging attitude of the smugglers towards the government.

The smuggling situation, however, is still very serious, because it has become so complicated and diversified in various regions and localities, at different points of time,

with some hot spots being the southwestern border, the northern border, and at sea. These are some emerging issues:

violations of lumber export regulations are common
smuggling of foreign cigarettes along the west and southwest borders is on the rise, even more openly than before
automobile smuggling through the southwestern border is still serious

for items whose importation is prohibited, or whose import permits are cancelled temporarily, the smugglers still find ways to elude control measures and investigation

smuggling at sea has become more complicated

Most major smuggling activities (via sea, air, and inland routes) involved using state-owned vehicles and ships, by either arrangement by the people in charge of the media with the smugglers, or the state economic agencies directly carrying out the smuggling themselves. The concern is that there has been collusion among smugglers, corrupt people, and degenerate cadres in the forces directly in charge of smuggling suppression.

[Hong] Could the minister please outline the policies and measures to suppress corruption and smuggling?

[Bui] The report of the government to the fourth session of the Ninth National Assembly has outlined the following policies and measures:

1. Reorganize, adjust, and complete the current system and policies relating to the suppression of corruption and smuggling.

The government will soon issue documents to distinguish the state management authority with production and business management functions of ministries and sectors. For the near future, the government is going to issue preliminary documents on public service regulations, government employee awards, and on a number of urgent issues such as regulations on receiving gifts and bonuses, expenditure of public fund, and so forth.

2. Heighten responsibility of leaders of all agencies in fighting corruption and smuggling.

3. The law enforcement authorities will concentrate on regions and areas where conditions allow smugglers and corrupt people to make connections with degenerate cadres, in order to fight corruption and smuggling effectively.

4. The law enforcement agencies will take up resolute measures to consolidate and cleanse the organizations. They also have to promote clean and just cadres for this campaign.

5. The ministries, sectors, and localities should regularly scrutinize the implementation of government decisions on anti-corruption and anti-smuggling work.

6. Consolidate the ancillary anti-corruption and anti-smuggling bodies within ministries, sectors, and localities. Determine clearly the responsibility and power of these bodies to ensure their effective operation.

[Hong] Thank you, Dear Minister.

Defense Economic Situation Discussed at Conference

BK1901090794 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1215 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] From 13-15 January, the annual all-Army economic conference was held in Hanoi. Attending were General Doan Khue, minister of national defense; Senior Lieutenant General Nguyen Nam Khanh, deputy head of the Army's General Political Department; commanders of general departments, military regions, Army corps, military corps, divisional groups; and representatives from various ministries, departments, and sectors of the party and state.

After the opening speech by Lieutenant General Phan Thu, deputy minister of national defense and head of the National Defense Industry and Economy General Department, reports were presented on 1993 activities and plans for 1994 production and business tasks in the national defense sector. Reports on organization and management tasks in military agencies doing business and economic activities also were presented.

In comparison with 1993 [as heard] figures, the total turnover of the Army increased by 28 percent, exports increased by 30 percent, profit and budget contributions increased 25 percent, and the average monthly income of a laborer increased 24 percent.

Addressing the conference, General Doan Khue praised the national defense production and economic sector for its achievements over the last four years in implementing Resolution No. 33 issued by the Central Committee Military Commission.

Doan Khue Attends Army Economic Conference

BK1701070694 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 16 Jan 94

[Text] The 1994 all-army economic conference was held in Hanoi from 13-15 January. General Doan Khue, minister of national defense; Senior Lieutenant Gen. Nguyen Nam Khanh, deputy director of the Political General Department; heads military general commissions, military regions, army branches, and armed corps; and delegates from different ministries and sections of the party and state attended the conference.

The participants delivered many speeches and offered many measures on the successful implementation of duties for 1994. They agreed that compared to 1993, total business turnover in 1994 will increase by 28 percent. Export volume is expected to rise by 30 percent, while foreign currency earnings from services will increase by 22 percent. Meanwhile, profit and state budget payments is expected to increase by 25 percent. The average monthly income of a military worker will increase by 24 percent, with total military production expected to rise by 20 billion dong. Also, the rate of increase for a soldier's meal allowance will be triple that of 1993.

Initial Investment in Long Xuyen Quadrangle

BK1701064994 Hanoi VNA in English 0629 GMT 17 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Hanoi VNA Jan. 17—The Long Xuyen quadrangle covers an area of 500,000 ha, half of them in An Giang Province. The land, which was left almost waste for quite a long time, as it was subjected to droughts for six months and floods for the other six months of a year. A few people settled down in this area. Every year they just came in November to harvest floating rice which grew naturally during flood seasons.

In order to turn that quadrangle into arable lands, the province implemented a five-year programme 1988-1992 with the total investment capital of 400 billion dong contributed by both the central and the local governments. Roads were upgraded, canals and ditches dredged and many rural areas supplied with electricity. As a result more and more people came and settled down in the quadrangle, bringing its population to 1.5 million.

Farmers began farming double rice crops and got an average yield of 9.8 tonnes/ha/year, making An Giang the biggest rice producer in the country in 1993 with an output of nearly 2 million tonnes. [passage omitted]

Doan Khue Views Armored Force Readiness

BK1301093994 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] In Ho Chi Minh City recently, the Tank and Armored Force [TAF] Command held a seminar on its building and training tasks during the past period. General Doan Khue, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of National Defense attended the seminar.

The TAF commander delivered a report on the activities of the force during the past few years. He pointed to its great efforts in improving its organization and personnel to meet the requirements of localities, military regions, and key strategic areas.

Despite numerous difficulties in equipment, budget, and facilities, the TAF has closely coordinated with the army corps, military regions, and localities to build and strengthen its units, improve training, and maintain combat readiness. The force has also striven to recruit and train new cadres, specialized personnel, and workers. Various units of the force have consistently improved training and fulfilled all their assigned tasks. They have closely combined the task of building firm and comprehensively strong units with that of modernizing and standardizing the army.

The seminar provided ample time for delegates of the army corps, military regions, and military units to discuss and exchange experiences on training and maintaining the spirit of combat readiness, military and joint operations, and other tasks related to national defense.

Speaking at the seminar, the minister stressed: In building and training, the TAF should implement the motto: firmly maintain basic principles and effectively apply past combat experiences. Cadres of the force must carefully study the enemy's capabilities while formulating concrete plans and projects to enhance the quality of training at various units. They must also strive to

fulfill their tasks in order to attain standardization, build comprehensively strong units, set up firm and strong defense zones, and step by step advance toward modernizing the army. These are essential tasks for making the TAF units strong and firm so that they can fulfill new tasks and meet the requirements under all circumstances for the cause of national defense and construction.

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